



## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 12 May 2017

*Please note that these are draft minutes until approved at the next Annual Parish Meeting*

**In the chair:** Councillor Joanna Heselwood

**Present:** 14 members of the public, Councillors Brown, Heselwood, Keys, Padfield and Stuchfield, Parish Clerk, Councillor W. Gray of East Lindsey District Council.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Councillor Bell due to ill-health. 3 residents and PCSO Mohammed due to other commitments.

2. **Minutes:**

It was proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Stuchfield and agreed by all that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 23 May 2016 were a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. **“I Love Minting and Gautby” Photographic Competition Results and Display:**

Councillor Heselwood hoped that everyone had had a chance to see all the photographic competition entries and congratulated all the entrants and thanked them for taking part. The photos had been judged by an independent professional photographer in Wragby and the winning ones will be printed in a calendar to be sold later in the year as a fundraiser. It is also hoped to add as many of the other entries as possible in the calendar, perhaps in the form of a collage.

3. **Come and share your ideas about how Minting and Gautby can become more wildlife-friendly for flora and fauna, such as bird boxes, encouraging wildflowers etc.**

Councillor Heselwood reported that both she and Councillor Bell wanted to discuss wildlife. There are many pressures on the environment, such as the demise of bees and insects, pollution, climate change, loss of habitat, newly-introduced pests and diseases, weed killers etc and all residents can help to do their bit to counteract this and think what could be done on public and private land to help. Without insects you get no birds – bird populations of many species have plummeted over the past 50 or so years.

In the past there was a wildlife group in Minting which used to meet to undertake bird counts and the like. The Parish Council wants to know how they could help, for instance as the Parish Council owns the playing field, could it be mowed less to encourage insects etc as they need long grass? The problem is this looks untidy and people don't like that; we need to look at things in a different way. Could venues be found for bird boxes? Councillor Keys suggested an area be selected to be left wild and marked with a sign so that people know this is what is happening

there. It was suggested that an area at the back of the village hall could be used for this. A resident reported that those people tending graves in the churchyard may be upset if the grass around them was left to go long and Councillor Heselwood confirmed that there would need to be a balance between keeping things tidy and leaving areas to grow more wild. She advised that hedges are renowned to be the best place for insects and that yellow rattle is a good wildflower to sow as this parasitizes on to grass and reduces the vigour of grasses thereby enabling wild flowers to flourish with less competition from vigorous grasses. In addition, trees need replacing; with the losses caused by Dutch Elm disease, chestnut canker and ash dieback amongst other problems, new trees need to be planted and the parish council would welcome any suggestions residents have on these matters.

#### 4. **Annual Report from the Parish Council Chair:**

Once again, 2016/17 has been a very busy year for both the Parish Council and the villages. Minting Community Choir which started in October 2015 has performed several times and has a regular membership of around 25 from our local area.

The Venue at Minting project brought professional theatre in the form of the wartime show "Think of England" and the very popular Rural Touring act – The Budapest Café Orchestra whose wonderful musicians enthralled our audience with their talent and sense of fun.

Last year saw our villages' maintain our good scores from the Best Kept Village judges and this year's judging will start shortly.

Since last year, Minting and Gautby villages' facebook has increased its Friends from 88 to 149 and is regularly used for advertising local events and sharing interesting and thought-provoking information.

Minting and Gautby Village Fete raised £966 for Minting and Gautby Village halls, a jumble sale took £357 for Children with Cancer UK and the MacMillan Coffee morning - £253. The final annual total raised for the Air Ambulance by quizzers at the Sebastopol was £1665. This year, instead of a fete, we are holding a floral festival in both of Minting and Gautby's churches with lunches, teas and cakes being served at the village hall at Minting. This will be on the weekend of June 10-11<sup>th</sup> and we are still looking for help welcome visitors to each of the churches, bake cakes, help with flower arrangements etc.

The main centre of activity in the village this year has been the efforts of the Sebastopol Inn community bid team, who are hoping to raise enough money to buy the Sebastopol and run it as a community pub, following its closure at the end of August last year. The share offer remains open; if anyone would like further information, application packs are available here tonight. I would like to thank all of the team members led by Sarah and Ken Smith who continue to work so hard to enable this project to become a reality.

The Clerk and I attended a broadband summit organised by Victoria Atkins MP, where it became clearer that Minting and Gautby would be part of the last 5% of households receiving broadband over 2Mb/s. However, how this would be delivered has not been resolved, particularly as the presence of ageing infrastructure in the villages means that the potential benefits of fitting fibre-optic technology will be reduced when the superfast signal encounters aluminium cabling. Mobile networks have improved locally, and it seems that EE (now owned by BT) is particularly strong in our villages with speeds of up to 60 Mb/s recorded in both Minting & Gautby. Local services provided by AB internet, line-of-sight internet providers to

some households in Gautby and Minting Village Hall, have now been taken over by Quickline; who are looking at increasing investment to maintain the quality of service that users have enjoyed.

As usual last year, we kept up the pressure regarding potholes, ensured the village centres, plinth island and Playing field were mowed regularly, responded to planning applications and various local government consultations and moved the Emergency Plan forward.

Thank you as ever to our wonderful team of councillors, without whom we couldn't accomplish as much as we do and our volunteers in Gautby, Matt and Lewis Sharpe.

I would like to thank a relative newcomer to our villages, Mrs Vicki Brown, without whose unstinting dedication, intellect, integrity and organisational skills many of the community events which we enjoy today would not be possible. As a member of the understaffed Minting Village Hall committee, Vicki is both secretary and acting treasurer and with her children donates her free time to provide the end of the month TGIF open house at the village hall, which has become such a popular event. In her role as all round good egg, she is a very important member of the Floral Festival organising team, she is treasurer of the Heritage Society and we could not run The Venue at Minting project without her, she is a very valuable member of the Sebastopol Bid team and is also a member of Gautby Village Hall and has helped to raise funds for them by providing support at events. Vicki has also been the Parish Clerk for the past 3 years and sad to say she is giving up the post at the end of June. She has been an awesome Clerk and her shoes will be hard to fill. However, I understand, she hopes to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor once she has finished as a paid employee and she will be a very welcome addition. The Chair thanked again Vicki again for all her support, her good nature and community spirit and I asked her to accept a rabbit-proof peony as a token of the council's appreciation.

## 5. **Reports from Local Organisations/Clubs:**

a) Minting and District Gardening Club: No update was available, however, Councillor Heselwood reported that the Gardening Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month from September-June, either at Minting Village Hall or elsewhere to visit other interesting gardens and all are very welcome to attend. They recently held a joint meeting with the Wragby Gardening Club, which was a well-attended affair and look forward to being able to join in events and visits which they hold in the future.

b) All Saints Church Gautby: A report from Mr Hugh Sutton was read out by the Chair:

Through much hard work and fund raising by members of the congregation and the wider community, significant improvements have been made to the church of All Saints' Gautby during the past year.

The electric lighting has been made safe and stable as a result of neat and tidy work from Mr Andrew Moore. The entire decor of the church has also been returned to its former glory with much needed painting work from our professional decorator, Mr Ian Jones. We are also grateful to Mr Jerry Heselwood who regularly cuts the grass and keeps the churchyard tidy and presentable.

The church continues to provide a welcome focus for the whole community and has been packed to capacity on three occasions during the past year for a Wedding, a Funeral and our annual Carol Service. We continue to welcome visitors from the UK and across the

world including during our popular Open Churches weekend. Visitors comment on the peaceful atmosphere of this well-kept church and their pleasure at finding a country church always open.

c) Report from St Andrew's Church, Minting: Mrs M Whittaker was unable to attend, but sent a report, outlining the activities of St Andrew's church over the past year:

During the year our church has continued with a monthly Holy Communion Service usually led by Rev. Brain Stalley with attendance slightly improved. Open Churches in May was a huge success with heritage and a popular tombola! The Harvest Festival in October was well attended and again our produce went to the Horncastle Luncheon Club. A baptism in December and the hugely popular Christmas Eve Carol Service rounded off our year.

David's Minting Community Choir has continued to thrive and meets most Friday evenings in church. Their performances at Open Churches, Harvest Festival and Christmas were much appreciated and they even sang carols around the village from Paul Kime's tractor and trailer, ending up with fish and chips. We again had donations from Gateshead Metal Detecting Society via Mr & Mrs E Clark and also visiting U3As.

We are, as ever, most grateful for all the help we receive both inside and outside the church, including our mowing team! We had our Quinquennial Inspection in the autumn and the organ needed repairs (which have now been done). We still have no D.C.C and hope finances will improve with fundraising planned for 2017. At well over £1000, insurance takes a lot of our funds.

d) Report from Minting Village Hall: A report from the Chair of Minting Village Hall Committee was read out:

As in previous years, the Hall has hosted a mixture of regular bookings, such as Yoga sessions, the villages' coffee morning and Gardening Club meetings and one-off events, such as birthday and anniversary parties. Organisations such as the Lincolnshire Shire Horse Society, the Parish Council, Witham 3<sup>rd</sup> Internal Drainage Board, The Royal British Legion and Childrens' Links the used the hall for meetings, parties and quiz nights. In May, we acted as a refreshment stop for a vintage car rally and in September we hosted the Horncastle Astronomy Weekend, which will be returning later this year. Sadly, after many years, the weekly Zumba sessions have ceased, as the teacher has moved away. The committee remain very interested in hearing from anyone who would like to make either a regular or a one off booking of the hall.

Minting, Gautby & District Heritage Society has again successfully run several cultural events at the hall over the last year, including 2 rural touring theatre shows and a very well attended Heritage Talk as part of the Wold Words Festival. The society plan on running 2 further rural touring events in the forthcoming season.

We have also held several fundraising events for the hall itself, such as the joint Minting & Gautby summer fete and a return visit by the Hicksville Bombers Rock and Roll band. Over the last few months, following the closure of the Sebastopol, the village hall social evenings have been re-instated and are held on the last Friday of each month. They have proved very popular and will be continuing. The next date is Friday 26 May and we would love to

see as many of you there as possible! We also hold a charity quiz night every few months; the next is a summer one on 14<sup>th</sup> July, in aid of Sue Ryder. Just last week, the first bingo night for several years was held; this was a great success and this will be repeated on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

We continue to publicise our facilities and events in the parish magazine, on our website, Facebook page and on the village website, and all of these are updated regularly with what's on at the village hall. In the lobby is a small display of upcoming events, both in the hall and locally, and I would encourage you to have a look at it before you leave and take away any flyers of interest.

We have continued to work on reducing outgoings, by checking that our electricity suppliers are the cheapest available, keeping our specialised village hall insurance and we are in the process of changing a large number of lightbulbs to low-energy LED ones. We will continue to look at ways of reducing running costs. There are also a number of maintenance jobs which have been carried out recently, or are in progress. In November, East Lindsey District Council gave us a 5 star rating for the kitchen facilities and recently we have had our external lighting and fire exit and safety lighting upgraded and our electrical appliances PAT tested.

The AGM of the village hall is next week, on 16 May 2017, and all residents are invited to attend. We are looking for more committee members and would like to hear from anyone who is able to help.

e) Report from Gautby Village Hall: Councillor Heselwood read out a report on behalf of Gautby Village Hall Committee:

We have continued to host 2 parish council meetings and be the headquarters of the Heritage Society and store Minting and Gautby Parish Council's files.

Anglian Water hired the hall again in December for a day-long meeting and we supplied bacon butties, morning coffee and cake, lunch and afternoon tea and cake, the profits of which went to the heritage society.

It was also in December that we realised that the hall was suffering from subsidence, which had caused the concrete foundations to break and the back wall was pulling away. We have had a structural engineer's report and an insurance claim has been put into our insurers. Whatever the result, it is very likely that there will be a £1000 excess to pay, which means that we will have to do a lot of fundraising to keep the hall going.

f) Report from Minting, Gautby and District Heritage Society:

Councillor Heselwood read out a report from the Heritage Society:

It's been a quiet year for the Heritage Society due to other priorities. However, highlights were the Wolds Words talk in October, on the history of Minting & Gautby through finds, by our member David Allsop; which was attended by 50 people who stayed for tea after the talk and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon; as well as the finding of a 3000 year old

bronze axe head in a field in Gautby. This was very kindly donated to the heritage society by the metal detectorist who found it.

As you will have already heard, the society lost one of its staunchest and founding members, John Laver, who has moved to Yorkshire. Without John's involvement with the heritage project, it would not have been nearly as successful and the book would not have been as interesting or well-researched. John kindly donated his library of local history books to the heritage society as well as the Plesiosaur fossils he found on his land.

The TVAM project has continued with 2 shows this year. We still have the original £400 seed-funding which we were granted by ELDC and we are awaiting confirmation of 2 more events to be held over the coming year. Obviously, this can only continue as long as we can maintain a large enough audience and we therefore look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the shows! If you would like to support us, we have a link on [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) which enables us to get a small donation when you shop from lots of companies online. It doesn't cost you anything, and you can even sign up on the heritage page of the [MintingandGautby.co.uk](http://MintingandGautby.co.uk) website.

g) The Sebastopol Inn, Minting Community Pub Limited

Councillor Heselwood read out a report on behalf of the management committee of the community pub bid team:

The first meeting of the Community Benefit Society was held on 24 April to review the situation at the end of the Share Offer period (22/4/17). Applications and investment had been received from 78 individuals (referred to as Members in these notes) who had been invited to the meeting.

53 Members attended the meeting. Proposals on how to take the project forward were made by the Management Committee and voting was on the basis of a majority of those present at the meeting.

The Community Share Offer had resulted in a total of £75,000 received from Members by 22 April, the end of the Share Offer period. As the minimum share target of £150,000 had not been achieved, Members agreed to extend the share offer to 22 June 2017 to allow time to raise additional funds and negotiate the purchase.

A proposal for existing Members to increase their investment resulted in potential additional share capital of over £20,000.

Members also agreed to take a short-term loan of up to £100,000 provided by 10 individual Members of the Society.

A revised business plan has been produced and copies of the revised cash flow forecast, profit and loss and the addendum to the business plan are available on the website.

Summary of the next steps of the process.

- Additional share applications from Members to be submitted by 6/5/17
- Negotiate purchase
- Issue shares

- Recruit tenant
- Implement marketing plan
- Open The Sebastopol Inn Community Pub

h) Minting Community Choir Mr David Allsop reported that the choir meets every Friday at 6pm at Minting Church and that it is always open to new members. The choir performs regularly; recently for Open Churches' weekend and at a big band concert. They will also be singing at the Floral Festival in June and have been invited to attend a choir contest in Horncastle this October.

## 7. Questions from electors

None

## 8. Reports from District and County Councillors and Police:

The Police were not in attendance, however, they sent a report which Councillor Heselwood read out, listing the incidents which had been recorded in the Minting and Gautby area between 01 January 2017 and 12 May 2017:

### 1 x Concerns for safety

Incident Date 23/01/2017. Person informing Police of their movements.

### 3 x Transport Hazard / Offence / RTC

Incident Date 08/02/2017. Report of person riding scooter without wearing helmet.

Incident Date 22/03/2017. Fly tipping on road.

Incident Date 26/03/2017. Driving without licence.

### 1 x Suspicious Circumstances

Incident Date 08/03/2017. Ford Transit van seen acting suspiciously.

### 1 x Criminal Damage

Incident Date 10/03/2017. Chain broken, land entered and driven on by vehicle.

### 1 x Abuse

Incident Date 19/03/2017. Report of historical abuse.

Councillor Heselwood reported that Mrs Patricia Bradwell is now the District Councillor for this area following the local elections and the retirement of Councillor Hoyes. She will be invited to attend parish council meetings in the future.

Councillor Gray of ELDC reported on the current projects being worked on at ELDC. Next week a balanced budget is being presented to full council. The transformation project is ongoing

without affecting frontline services. There are some changes to car parking across the district, the nearest to this area being Coningsby. The village car park was free and used to be full all day as people often parked there and went off elsewhere by bus; meaning shoppers couldn't find a space, so now there is 2 hours free parking and after this payment is required, which should help shoppers find a space.

ELDC is working on the final stages of its Core Strategy, in respect of planning.

There have been a number of changes of Councillors at the County Council, and although Mrs Bradwell, is new to this area, she is an experienced Lincolnshire councillor who has been deputy council leader for the last 8 years and she covers highways and broadband, so she will be a good point of contact for the issues raised here on those matters.

Councillor Heselwood thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40pm