

HESSLE TOWN COUNCIL
Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday, 28th May 2024 at 7.00pm
Large Front Room
Town Hall, South Lane, Hessle

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Craggs (Chairman & Mayor), Davison, I. Hardy, Hogan, Keillor, Nolan, Sutton and Walker

Clerks: Mrs K Cooper, Mrs J Render, Miss T Reading & Miss S Rowland

Also in attendance: Inspector Matt Wilson and Sgt Neil Taylor (Humberside Police)
Helen Jones-Brown, ERYC Children's Services – Youth provision

45 Members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs Adams, Bovill, P. Hardy, Harrison, Langdale (Vice-Chairman), Pickering and Toogood

WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN – COUNCILLOR STEVE CRAGGS & COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVISON

7.00pm - Councillor Davison welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and introduced the Town Council's new Chairman & Town Mayor, Councillor Steve Craggs.

Councillor Craggs opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He provided a brief biography and asked the Councillors and Town Council staff present to introduce themselves. Councillor Craggs then introduced and handed the meeting over to the new Beverley & Haltemprice Police Inspector, Matt Wilson and Sgt Neil Taylor from the local policing team. They were attending the meeting as they had wanted to hold a residents meeting in Hessle and following discussions with the Town Clerk, thought that by attending the Annual Town Meeting it would give them the opportunity to give residents information as to what the Police see as happening in the area, what they are doing about it, encourage reporting and then give residents an opportunity for any questions.

Inspector Wilson introduced himself and Sgt Neil Taylor. He confirmed to Councillors and residents that they are aware of the current anti-social behaviour happening in and around Hessle. The Police are aware of two groups that are causing problems. The first group are local teenagers/youths, around 20/30 of them, that are hanging around Hessle Square. The Police have engaged with these youths and he said that they are generally good kids and are bored. The second group that the Police are aware of are more hardcore. These are youths/young adults riding stolen motorbikes, electric bikes and scooters wearing full face masks/balaclavas and predominantly from the Hull and estate areas. They believe that these youths are being used for scoping exercises and are linked to more hardcore burglars who have been targeting the area. However, this is something that is not

just happening in Hessle but also in Anlaby, Willerby, Kirk Ella and the surrounding Haltemprice areas. Inspector Wilson confirmed that some of the local Policing Team have volunteered to work nights and Operation 'Thunderbolt' has been set up as a dedicated resource for the next couple of weeks in the Hessle area. He also confirmed that there will be plain clothed Police Officers working in this area. Humberside Police also have a dedicated team called Operation 'Yellowfin' who deal specifically with the targeted enforcement of nuisance motorbike crime in Hull and they are now doing more work in the East Riding area, however, official procedures have always meant that they are not allowed to chase motorbikes and because of this operational restriction and the significant increase in these nuisance motorbikes, reports being received and residents' concerns, a new force-wide initiative called Operation Yokohama has been set up in the Humberside area with advanced off road trained officers using motorbikes who are able to pursue offenders and he will request for the team to be tasked to Hessle. They are also using drones more, but these are currently shared with the Fire & Rescue services. This is something that the Police need to invest in in the future, but the equipment and technology is currently too expensive for their budgets. Residents present commented that as well as never seeing any Police on the streets, nothing ever seems to happen to the trouble makers causing the anti-social behaviour. Sgt Neil Taylor confirmed that there are no longer the facilities available to put them into, such as young offenders institutes that used to exist. The Police now prefer some form of engagement with youths/offenders and try to work and involve other partner groups/agencies. Another concern for residents were the amount of Hanoi burglaries happening in the area (criminals gaining entry to the victim's home by brute force and once inside, steal your car keys). Sgt Taylor advised that having being a victim of this type of crime, residents should take their car keys to bed and should not be left downstairs. Anti-theft signal blocking devices such as faraday boxes/wallets are also a good idea. Sgt Taylor also recommended setting up or joining Neighbourhood Watch schemes which have proven successful in some streets. Many have been set up with a residents 'WhatsApp' group and any suspicious activity can be reported almost immediately to all residents joined up to the group and becoming an active community. Inspector Wilson repeated to residents that the key message is to report all incidents to 101 or 999 if something is in progress. No matter how irrelevant it might seem, things must be reported. It is his job to use the resources he has to target key areas of crime and he only knows this from his data reports showing how many calls have been received to 101 from each area. If residents don't report things, the data tells him there are no problems in that area so he will task the teams to areas that have reported problems.

Inspector Wilson then introduced Helen Jones-Brown from East Riding Council who he had invited to talk about youth projects.

Helen Jones-Brown introduced herself and provided a brief history of her background working with children in high harm services and exploitation. She has extensive experience and knows what works well with child services and is currently part of an East Riding Council partnership with Barnardo's to develop a research youth project. They are now ready to pilot in 2 areas in the East Riding and Hessle is one them. The 'Voices Mean Choices' partnership is developing training and youth and community support to help ensure that all children are safer sooner from exploitation. They have received a small funding pot to run a mobile bus for youth provision and are calling it 'Our Place.' The funding pot will allow them to run the project over the summer months and at Christmas. They have links with cross border colleagues and detached youth workers and this has already been tried in Beverley and has reduced anti-social behaviour by 75%. The operational

running will be decided in the next four weeks and will be ready by the summer. It is hoped that by providing positive activities and engagement with youths they can change a developing culture. A member from the Friends of First Lane Playing Field asked Helen if the bus could go to the First Lane Field as they also suffer with anti-social behaviour at the field, such as drinking alcohol and drug dealing which she has emailed Police Officers about. The Town Clerk also confirmed that Hessle Town Council supports and provides grant funding annually for a Youth Worker at the weekly Youth Club held at the Hessle Sporting Club on King George V Field and Helen said she would take details of all groups at the end of the meeting. Inspector Wilson asked Margaret to report any anti-social behaviour to the 101 line rather than email individual officers as that way it will be logged onto their system.

Residents asked the Police about issues with 'boy racers' causing a nuisance and driving dangerously along Woodfield Road every evening on their way to the foreshore and causing problems for residents down there. The Police and Town Councillors confirmed that with effect from the 1st June a new anti-social behaviour variation has been added to the existing Public Spaces Protection Order that will be a prohibition of;

- any person playing music or creating noise from any device so as to cause a nuisance.
- driving in such a manner to cause or be likely to cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person or to cause or be likely to cause any other person to be intimidated.
- Sounding a car horn so as to cause a nuisance.
- Revving car engines so as to cause a nuisance.

Inspector Wilson confirmed that when this PSPO variation comes into effect he will send the road traffic team down to the foreshore for the first few weeks. Anyone whether driving or a passenger causing a problem can and will be fined.

A resident spoke about the parking problems on Brocklesby Close/Brigg Drive. Vehicles are constantly parked on and block the footpaths and also park across peoples driveways. Inspector Wilson said he would have a word with the local Police team to work with the residents and the East Riding Council Parking Enforcement team.

A resident commented that no-one ever sees any figures or information on what the Police have been doing locally.

Inspector Wilson said that there are figures on the Police.uk website and some information they don't publish for particular reasons. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council do receive a monthly report that is discussed at the Full Council meetings, however, this can be added to the Town Council website for residents to see. Inspector Wilson asked if a link to the Humberside Police website and specifically the Humber Talking page in order for residents to read about the local policing teams, sign up for the My Community Alert and hopefully complete the survey.

Emma Hardy MP asked Inspector Wilson that following the elections on 4th July, a further meeting could be arranged with just the Police in order for them to provide feedback to residents.

Sgt Neil Taylor paid his respects to the late Councillor Viv Padden who sadly passed away in December 2023. Sgt Taylor expressed his friendship for Viv who he stated was such a hardworking

and active member of the Town Council, the Hesse & Anlaby Food Bank and worked for the community.

8.15pm - As there were no further questions for the Police, Councillor Craggs thanked Inspector Wilson, Sgt Taylor and Helen Jones-Brown for attending and they left the meeting.

Councillor Craggs thanked the members of the public for attending and said that the Annual Town Meeting would now start and anyone that had attend for just the Police was welcome to stay.

Councillor Craggs opened the meeting to the public and asked for any questions;

Q Why have the Town Council used inferior CCTV cameras in Tower Hill Park?

A The Clerk answered and said that the cameras were not considered inferior and have exceptional visual quality, especially at night. The Town Council took advice from our CCTV company who oversee and maintain all the Town Council cameras, Humberside Police and the ERYC Senior Engineer for Traffic Signals and CCTV owned by the East Riding Council and who manages the ERYC CCTV Control room. The cameras chosen ('Dark fighters') were on recommendations due to the low-intensity ambient lighting conditions in the park by illuminating the scene with infra-red LEDs (night vision control) and image quality together with value for money, although the Clerk obtained 100% Grant Funding for the purchase and installation of these cameras.

Q The top field at the back of Holly Drive (Linden Homes estate) has been fenced off and barbed wire put up which is dangerous for children and wildlife walking past – Why has it been done and is this illegal?

A Councillor Davison confirmed that the land fenced off is privately owned. East Riding Council have had a consultation open since 2023 calling for evidence from residents (from September 1989 to September 2009) in order to be able to modify the Public Rights of Way Definitive Map in this area and include a path through this field. The land owners have submitted an application objecting and Councillor Davison confirmed that the field behind the Linden Homes development has already been allocated by East Riding Council for further building and is in the Local Plan. Ward Councillor David Nolan confirmed that he has been up to the site and taken photographs of the fencing and barbed wire and has sent them to the Public Rights of Way department at ERYC for their comments and is awaiting a response.

Q Boothferry Road – what is being done about cars parking on the central reservation when the football is on at King George V Field.

A Councillor Charlie Walker who is also the Chair of Hesse Sporting Club confirmed that they have 41 teams at the club and he the other volunteers are fully aware of the issues. They have put cones on the middle reservation several times but drivers run over them or just move them and the volunteers get verbal abuse, they continually inform all visiting teams and their own members about parking in the middle of Boothferry Road. He and the Town Council have contacted the Police who continually say it is not illegal and it is not their responsibility. Councillor David Nolan confirmed that ultimately it is the East Riding Councils land and they have the power to create a Traffic Regulation Order and put double yellow lines around the central reservation which would specifically prohibit parking, but they are unwilling and choose not to.

Q Parking Charges for Hessle – Are parking charges going to be introduced to Hessle?

A Councillor Nolan confirmed that following a parking review in 2023, the East Riding Council will be issuing a report in July 2024 regarding parking charges in the East Riding. Hessle Town Council have always strongly objected to any parking charges and Councillor Sutton believes that the introduction of parking charges to areas that currently do not have any was not supported by the members of the review team this time, however, proposals for introducing charges to currently free car parks cannot be ruled out in the future.

Q Hessle Community Centre – Following the Food Bank receiving Grant Funding for undertaking some renovation works, the rooms were closed off at short notice for user groups who were unaware. Paintings and posters were taken off the walls which have now gone missing and groups lost income because of this. Are there any more plans for room closures? and if so the user groups need sufficient notice.

A The Clerks confirmed that the rooms were closed off without the Town Council's knowledge, but they will make the Community Centre Manager and the Food Bank aware of the issues that were caused and that they need to discuss any future renovation work and/or room closures with the user groups well in advance.

Q Mr Benson, a resident, attended the Full Council meeting on 21st May to advise members that as would be unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting, he wanted to provide a list of his complaints and views about what is wrong with Hessle. As he walks around Hessle almost daily, he has noticed issues that have developed and whilst he has reported these problems to the East Riding Council on more than one occasion, nothing ever gets done.

The Clerk had taken a copy of Mr Benson's list and presented it to the Councillors and Police present at the meeting. Whilst one or two of the issues had already been discussed by the Police, the rest of the issues are problems with the state of the roads, streetscene and footpaths. Councillor David Nolan, as Ward Councillor, said that he will take the list and would pass Mr Bensons concerns to the appropriate departments at East Riding Council. A copy of Mr Bensons complaints and views is attached.

Councillor Craggs asked if there were any further questions, and as there were none, thanked everyone for attending and closed the Annual Town Meeting 2024 at 9.00pm.

RESIDENT COMPLAINTS AND VIEWS:

- ① NEED MORE POLICE. BURGLARIES & CAR THEFTS ARE OUT OF CONTROL ALONG WITH ASB.
- ② GULLY CLEANING (STREET CLEANING REALLY POOR.
- ③ FOOTPATHS IN DEPLORABLE CONDITION ALL OVER.
- ④ PARKING: LOTS NOW PARKING ON FOOTPATHS, DOUBLE YELLOWS, STREET CORNERS, DROP KERBS, ALSO BIG VANS PARKING ON DRIVE BLOCKING OF FOOTPATHS.
- ⑤ HEDGE + BUSHES OVERHANGING / BLOCKING FOOTPATHS.
- ⑥ ROAD MARKINGS MISSING / WORN OUT ALL OVER.
- ⑦ SPEEDING BAD AFTER 7PM ON BEOTHUFERRY ROAD, COTTESMORE / SUNNINGDALE, FIRST LANE AND HULL ROAD.
- ⑧ FIRST LANE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CARS PARKING ON FOOTPATH ALONGSIDE NEW BOLARDS! POOR DESIGN. (ERUC).
- ⑨ LITTER BINS IN SQUARE NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR WEEKEND RUBBISH.
- ⑩ DARLEYS ROUNDABOUT - STATE OF IT NOW AFFECTING DRIVERS VIEW!
- ⑪ BEVERLEY ROAD FROM DARLEYS TO SPIRE ROUNDABOUTS PARKED CARS BLOCKING ROAD CAUSING MASSIVE TAILBACKS TO BR. (NEED PARKING BAN 7-7)
- ⑫ STATE OF SUNNINGDALE / COTTESMORE ROAD LOAD OF DROPS (CRACKS) POTHOLES!
- ⑬ BUS STOPS TOP OF SUNNINGDALE ROAD NOT USEABLE MOST OF THE TIME DUE TO PARKED CARS. NEED RE SIGHTING,
PTO

THESE ARE MY VIEWS WALKING
AROUND HESSLE ON A REGULAR
BASIS.

MANY THANKS
MR. S. BENSON

A RESIDENT OF 43 YEARS!
