

Kirton in Lindsey Annual Town Meeting 2025



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 6.00pm at the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall, Kirton in Lindsey

**PRESENT – Councillors: Hazel Fox (Chair); Kathy Cooper, Pat Frankish, David Garritt, Tony Kitchen, Joy Kofoed and Barry Starkie (part).
Assistant Clerk: Cheri Morton and Town Clerk: Neil Taylor-Matson
Circa 33 Residents of Kirton in Lindsey**

Community networking had started prior to 6pm with a looped PowerPoint presentation, refreshments and leaflets available. At 6pm the Mayor, Cllr Hazel Fox, opened the meeting.

MINUTES

ATM2025/01

Welcome by the Town Mayor

Cllr Hazel Fox, Mayor of Kirton in Lindsey, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting, thanking everyone for taking the time to come along.

ATM2025/02

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2024

Copies of the draft minutes of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting were made available to the meeting and had been published online since April 2024. They were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, Cllr Hazel Fox.

ATM2025/03

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.

The last year has been another busy year for Kirton in Lindsey Town Council, and I would like to begin by sharing with you some of the highlights.

SportsZone sessions have continued, and new Box-It sessions began. Planning permission was achieved for outdoor gym equipment at KLASSIC Park, which was funded by Section106 money.

The Mini Bloomers and our Town Clerk planted new trees at the cemetery and in August we were delighted to win the Best Kept War Memorial in the CPRE Best Kept Village Competition.

In June we came together to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day with a beacon lighting at the Green and games and bingo in the Town Hall. Cllr Garritt and I did the honours as bingo callers.

The Summer Gala was held on the Green and despite the wet weather, a good time was had by all those who attended and we held the 6th Annual Scarecrow Trail with the theme of World War II to honour the D-Day anniversary. There were some exceptionally imaginative ones on show.

In July I presented cheques to the 1st Kirton in Lindsey Brownies and 1st Kirton in Lindsey Scouts from money raised at the Civic Service and Civic Dinner during my term of office as Mayor.

The Best Kept Frontage competition was again held, and we had some very worthy winners. I also thank all the businesses and homeowners in the Town for their efforts to make our Town so appealing.

The Town came together to honour those who gave their lives and lay wreaths at the memorials at Manton Airfield, the Town Memorial, and the Bomber memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Every year the number of residents attending grows and this year was no exception.

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We all enjoyed a Christmas Festival in the Market Square, which was well attended, and the Winter Window Wonderland competition took place.

The Town Council was recognised under the Local Council Awards Scheme with the Silver Award, the first Council to be awarded this status, largely in part to the hard work of our Clerk. Our Clerk also achieved funding for CCTV in the Market Place from the Police and Crime Commissioner Fund of which we are all grateful.

As Mayor I attended many events around the county on your behalf, and two in particular stand out. One was the Workers Memorial event in Scunthorpe honouring those who have lost their lives at work and the other was being invited by Mr Bartlett to attend his unveiling of the Halifax Bomber Memorial on the 24th August. It was fitting that members of one of the airmen's family were able to attend.

Of course, we do have challenges:

Car Parking in the Town is at a premium at times and whilst we were not able to secure the land we would have wanted to provide additional car parking, we have and continue to engage with North Lincolnshire Council to look at ways to maximise the space in the Town Centre. This has included provision for disabled bays.

Our Town Clerk continues to chase North Lincolnshire Council to ensure all the highways matters are rectified in a timely manner. But it is an uphill battle with many outstanding issues.

We do ask residents to report any crime or antisocial behaviour to the police as soon as they become aware of it. Without these reports, action cannot be taken.

The Council have considered 33 planning applications in the past year, including the development at Ings Road, which was refused by North Lincolnshire Council but was overturned at appeal by the Secretary of State.

All your Councillors have worked hard on your behalf, and we shall continue to do so.

On other matters, we said goodbye to Cath Delsignore who stepped down as Community Co-ordinator and welcomed Denise Sayles. Cllr Adam Delsignore left the Council, and we welcomed back Cllr Tony Kitchen and new Councillor Barrie Starkie.

It was with great sadness, we lost Councillor Billy Boyd. Billy had been a Councillor for 17 years and was a former Mayor for four years. Billy was outspoken, never afraid to speak his mind and had strong beliefs, but he was a knowledgeable Councillor who gave his time generously. I will be forever grateful for his guidance and support. A plaque in Billy's memory has been placed on a bench at KLASSIC Park.

I would now like to pass you on to Ward Councillor David Garritt who will give a short report and is available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

ATM2025/04

North Lincolnshire Council – Ward Members Report.

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

Cllr Garritt introduced himself, having being a Town Councillor for around nine years and becoming Ward Councillor a few years ago. He noted that the Town Council is very busy and active, matching the town itself. Main issues raised revolve around highways – a long list of works required with some decent progress made. Work is now confirmed as programmed to be done at Redbourne Mere, King Edward Street, Spa Hill and Station Road. Work has also been undertaken at Steep Hill and to repair existing and install new street signs as well as resolving issues at the Holme Road junction near Mortal Ash Hill.

Parking is known to be always at a premium in the town, and North Lincolnshire Council representatives met with Town Councillors and the Town Clerk in the town in December. There are issues around creating designated parking spaces but options at the widest areas of Sylvester Street are to be explored with a feasibility study.

Planning and development is also a big issue, with developments planned at Ings Road and the former RAF base. Work has been put into responses to these applications to encourage them to be as good as they can be.

Cllr Garritt attended the public consultation for a solar farm at Manton.

Bin collections were also an issue earlier in the year, which was the result of issues with vehicles out of service and staffing issues at North Lincolnshire Council. These matters now appear to be resolved.

A tree survey was conducted in the St Andrew's Churchyard area, at Wesley Street and Traingate and issues identified are resolved with the churchyard to remain under monitoring.

Cllr Garritt noted that he assisted Mr Bartlett with works to achieve the Halifax Bomber Memorial.

Other matters progressing are sewerage issues and a 40mph buffer zone prior to the 30mph speed limit on North Cliff Road. Recently electrical goods for those of pensionable age were distributed with the help of Cllr Kathy Cooper, this included air fryers, slow cookers and one cup kettles.

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Cllr Garritt noted he wished to keep the update brief, but was happy to answer any questions which residents may have.

A resident asked about any plans for restrictions to parking of vehicles at the top of Spa Hill which is likely to cause a collision. Cllr Garritt noted that there is nothing planned for this and to achieve restrictions a full consultation would be required. He noted that the area doesn't warrant yellow lines as the Highway Code determines that you cannot park a vehicle in a dangerous place. A consultation can be asked for.

A resident asked what steps can be taken to protect residents from noise on Spa Hill due to the stream of empty lorries rattling down the road from 4:30am every morning. Could a weight limit be considered? Cllr Garritt noted that weight limits had been looked into and if the road is considered to be suitable for vehicles of that weight, it could not be achieved. The resident noted that when the resurfacing work is carried out it needs to be of a very good standard to help with this issue. Cllr Garritt offered to put forward a request to North Lincolnshire Council that this issue is looked into.

A resident asked if a solution could be found for the dangerous Grayingham Road junction due to the number of accidents which occur there. Ideas such as improved signage, joint county working and dropping the height of fences were put forward. Cllr Garritt outlined that although the junction is just outside the North Lincolnshire Council boundary, North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) had offered to work with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) on solutions to this. The joint safety review was suggested to begin after the police report into a fatality at the junction last year concluded. That report is now published, but nothing further has moved forward between NLC and LCC. Cllr Garritt will chase this up now the police report is out and ask that options are looked at.

No other questions were raised.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Garritt for his update.

ATM2025/05

Grant Awards

The Mayor carried out cheque board presentations for the 2025 Budgeted Grants applied for by town groups and organisations. Representatives from the organisations spoke of their activities and use of the grant awards and photos were taken of the presentations.

These were:

- 1st Kirton in Lindsey Brownies - £500.00
- 1st Kirton in Lindsey Scouts - £600.00
- Diamond Jubilee Town Hall - £3,870.00
- KLASSIC Park - £4,000.00
- Kirton First -£2,000.00
- Nutshell - £400.00

The Mayor noted additional 2025 Budgeted Grants awarded but that there was no one present at the meeting to receive the presentations as:

- Evergreens - £800.00
- In Bloom - £1,000.00
- Mini Bloom - £500.00

ATM2025/06

Open Forum

The Mayor introduced the Open Forum element of the meeting, asking if anyone wanted to raise any issue relating to Kirton in Lindsey and any matters that they wanted the Town Council to discuss at a future meeting. No matters were raised.

The Mayor invited representatives of groups and organisations who were present but had not received grant funding if they would like to say anything about their activities in the town.

Mary Hollingsworth of the Kirton in Lindsey Society spoke of the work to introduce a Digital Heritage Trail for the town with twenty points of interest. This will be accessed through a smart phone and can be carried out by walking a route in the town or viewed from home. The Trail will consist of commentary, videos and photos mainly aimed at families to discover more about the history of Kirton in Lindsey. The work is not quite finished and is hoped to formally launch at the end of May. Volunteers are sought to test the smart phone app by walking the route.

Wayne Eynon, town LIVES volunteer, spoke of how LIVES continues to go from strength to strength and has access to sufficient funding. What it continues to lack is volunteers. Wayne also reported the recent fundraising by Kirton in Lindsey Old Timers (KLOTs) for a new defibrillator which was much needed and greatly appreciated. Volunteering for LIVES is an excellent route into ambulance or nursing careers and looked upon favourably in terms of experience for these careers.

Kathy Cooper, representing KLASSIC noted the current vacancy for a caretaker at the facility. A groundsman is in place but a caretaker is still sought and so asked that word is spread and if anyone has any interest in the role for them to get in touch with Trustee members or the Venue Manager.

Jane Owen, Chief Executive, Humber and Wolds Rural Action spoke of the recent Rural Housing Survey conducted and their support for developing a Men in Sheds group in the town. The survey had received a good response from the residents for the size of the population, and a report will soon be provided to the Town Council with offer of further support if required.

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Brian Chudley, Town Hall Live, spoke of the continuing success of the programme of live music events held at the Town Hall, now in its 15th year (a total of around 200 events). The Live Music programme is a real plus for Kirton in Lindsey, attracting audiences from around the county – Lincoln, Woodhall Spa, Louth etc – but it would be good if more residents from the town also supported the concerts.

Emma Ricketts, Headteacher, and Brian Watson, Assistant Head, of Kirton Academy gave a presentation to provide information about the ongoing development of the Academy and dispel myths about the ongoing work and changes. The Academy recognise the difficulties around the changes, but explained that they are all happening for specific reasons. They offer an open-door policy for anyone to visit and see for themselves. The aim is to become a more active part of the community and develop the standards with dedicated work around punctuality and consistent behaviour. Exam achievements are already showing improvements with a culture of praise pushed and a focus on 'consistency over intensity'. They apologised for the current level of work ongoing on the site, noting a £3 million investment in improvements is ongoing. Questions answered included the removal of the hedge around the playground (required for the installation of new replacement fencing, new hedging is planted) and the wide range of extra curricula activities which are offered. It was noted this can be a challenge as 60% of students are bussed in from outside of the town.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming to the event and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the networking opportunities available to chat to representatives from other organisations and groups and their Town Council representatives.