

Kirton in Lindsey Annual Town Meeting 2026



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 6.00pm at the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall, Kirton in Lindsey

PRESENT – Councillors: Hazel Fox (Chair), Pat Frankish, David Garritt, Chris Howard, Joy Kofoed, Tony Pollitt and Barry Starkie.

Assistant Clerk: Cheri Morton, Community Co-Ordinator: Mandy Coote, Town Clerk: Neil Taylor-Matson and Rosa Torraca & Lud Ahmed (Carers' Support Centre).

Circa 33 Residents of Kirton in Lindsey

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

MINUTES

ATM2026/01

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.

For those who don't know me, I'm Hazel Fox, Councillor and Mayor of Kirton in Lindsey Town Council.

But this evening isn't a Council meeting, it's an opportunity for all residents of the town to get together to hear what your Council has been doing in the past year, but also to discuss local issues and engage with and meet the many wonderful community groups we have in the town.

We will also be presenting grant awards to Community Groups on behalf of the Town Council.

One of our Ward Councillors, Cllr David Garritt is also joining us, so please feel free to tackle him on any issues you would like to discuss. I am sure he looks forward to engaging with you.

We also have other Town Councillors here, so do take the time to speak to any of us about any matters concerning the town which are important to you, and we will all try our best to help.

Please do help yourselves to refreshments and thank you all for taking the time to be here. It is very much appreciated.

ATM2026/02

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2025

Copies of the draft minutes of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting were made available to the meeting and had been published online since April 2025. They were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, Cllr Hazel Fox.

ATM2026/03

Updates - 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.

This year has been another busy one for Kirton in Lindsey Town Council.

We have welcomed two new Councillors, Cllr Chris Howard and Cllr Tony Pollitt and a new Community Co-ordinator, Mandy Coote. They have all been great additions to the team and their skills and experience have strengthened the Council. We also now have a Town Crier, Mr Bruce McKenzie who has been formally recognised in the role.

We also paid tribute to Mrs Pauline Brumpton who sadly passed away. Pauline was a former Town Mayor and president of the Kirton in Lindsey Royal British Legion. She was greatly missed at the remembrance service at the war memorial.

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We have considered and commented on 20 planning applications, installed a communication board at the play area and managed the cemetery and allotments. We have installed a further CCTV camera in the Market Place, set up a Community Speed watch group, and worked with Community Payback to paint the war memorial railings and weatherproof the town benches. We have reviewed and refreshed the flower beds around the town and presented Civic Awards to George Curtis, Caroline Hodder and Ian Steedman.

We have listened to the residents and hosted SportsZone sessions on a Monday evening free of charge. We took on board feedback that there was a lack of free entertainment for the children at the summer gala, and so this year we are organising some free games. We have again run the Best Kept Town Centre Frontage competition and hosted a successful Christmas Festival.

We continue to manage the highway verge and parish paths grass cutting, funded two new replacement union flags for the war memorial, and became a Cadent Centre for Warmth partner, with the Community Co-ordinator managing sessions. A blood Pressure Clinic is a new event, and the first session will be on Saturday 18th April from 10am in the Town Hall.

Planning is underway for the Scarecrow trail in July, and a poll is live for residents to vote for this year's theme. If you haven't already voted, please do so.

As Mayor I attended many events around the county on your behalf. In particular I was honoured to be invited to the Royal British Legion's annual dinner and also the City of Lincoln Carol service in Lincoln Cathedral in aid of the SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, also known as the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association.

But there is work still to be done.

We continue to push North Lincolnshire Council for highways issues around the town including potholes, signage and parking enforcement. We are working on a new entrance to the allotments and installing a Letters to Heaven post box at the cemetery to give comfort to those who have lost loved ones.

We haven't given up on providing a car park for the town and work is ongoing behind the scenes to achieve this. We have received permission from North Lincolnshire Council to install speed indicator devices at the entrances to the town and are seeking funding to provide them.

We are working on replacing the slide in the play area enclosure and anticipate using Section 106 money to achieve this. Repairs to the Whipping Post and ensuring all the town land assets are registered correctly are ongoing.

KLASSIC Park is of great importance to the Town Council and the residents, and we are working to ensure its future is secure.

And of course, next year there will be elections whereby you can all vote for who you want to form the next Town Council.

I would also like to thank all the volunteer Councillors and staff for their hard work and the residents who give their time to the many community groups around the town. Without you all, and your work behind the scenes, the town would not be as great as it is.

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.

Updates - 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, as a Town Councillor for a number of years and becoming Ward Councillor three years ago.

The year have proved busy with a range of issues raised including potholes and other road surface repairs, footpaths, signs, local improvements, bins and recycling changes, flooding and the supply of cooking appliances under the energy saving scheme for pensioners. A part of the role is the chasing up of work on behalf of the town and residents with officer contacts within North Lincolnshire Council (NLC).

Not all matters Ward Councillors deal with are NLC specific, however helping local residents is a pleasure and help will always be given were possible.

Cllr Garritt is also involved in bigger and more strategic matters, including parking facilities, care quality commission and wider leisure and recreation provision across North Lincolnshire.

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes, including efforts for car parking provision in the town and development of a nature reserve.

Cllr Garritt concluded noting a busy year and welcomed questions anyone had.

A resident noted concern about the falling standards of workmanship, specifically to roads and paths. This results in repeated visits from contractors to rectify poor standard work. Cllr Garritt advised that utility companies do need permission from NLC to carry out works and NLC do hold them to account, requiring the works to be rectified when the standard is not met. It was clarified that this is not at additional cost to the residents, and he gave the example of the resurfacing works at Redbourne Mere

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which fell below standard when initially carried out. Cllr Garritt also noted the work on Spa Hill in the year to repair a water leak when resurfacing work went uncompleted with the utility company held to account to return to complete the work to standard. Another example was road closure signage left at Dunstan Hill when works were completed; the companies do get fined when signage is not removed. The resident noted the inconvenience the return visits cause as much as the initial below standard work and that the only 'winners' are the local garages with the number of repairs to vehicles needed.

Cllr Garritt noted that Spa Hill to Station Road is due to be resurfaced this year.

Another resident asked Cllr Garritt to clarify if NLC can do anything if workmanship falls below standard. Cllr Garritt advised that the companies are held to account and have to return to make the work up to the standard required at no additional cost to residents.

There were no further questions and the Mayor thanked Cllr Garritt for his update.

Updates - Grant Awards

The Mayor carried out cheque board presentations for the 2026 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 - £500.00
- Evergreens - £800.00
- Diamond Jubilee Town Hall - £900.00
- KLASSIC - £4,000.00
- Kirton First - £2,500.00
- Bloom, Kirton in Lindsey - £1,000.00

The Mayor noted additional Community Pot Grants approved since the last Annual Meeting as:

- Royal British Legion - £300 towards the 2026 remembrance service buffet
- Bowls Club - £300 towards repairs to the visitor shelter
- Town Hall Live - £300 towards publicity costs to promote their programme of live music events

ATM2025/04

Refreshments and Open Forum

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.

Rosa Torraca and Lud Ahmed attended representing the Carers' Support Centre and Rosa introduced their work and information available across North and North East Lincolnshire for over 30 years. Rosa also signposted the North Lincolnshire Dementia Action Alliance.

Janet Caughley noted that as well as Bloom she represents Kirton in Lindsey Litter Pickers which is now a separate entity. Over 80 sacks of litter were collected in the town during the two recent Great British Spring Clean events. Janet is looking to work with more groups across the town and has equipment available for people who are keen to keep areas of the town litter free.

Val Donaghy, Secretary of the Kirton in Lindsey Table Tennis Club, introduced the club and noted they meet at KLASSIC 7pm-9pm on Thursdays. The emphasis is fun and everyone is welcome, particularly younger players and equipment is available for those who don't have their own.

Mandy Coote represented the Community Shop, Fridays 1pm-1.45pm at the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall. Mandy clarified that this is not a food bank and is open to everyone. The stock includes fresh fruit and vegetables as well as cupboard store items all in good date. The Shop raises funds for the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall.

Alison Birkett, President of the Women's Institute spoke of the long history in the town, celebrating 89 years this year. The group is very active with nearly 60 members meeting the second Tuesday each month at the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall. The Women's Institute also support the annual Summer Gala and Christmas Festival events.

Mary Hollingsworth, Chair of the Kirton in Lindsey Society reminded everyone of the 'Time Travellers' Digital Heritage Trail which had won the Flora Murray Award from the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology. On May 23rd the Society are holding a special event in St Andrew's Church; of Medieval Music, Songs and Stories of the Luttrell Psalter with de Mowbray's Musicke. Information and tickets were available. The Society hold their monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall. Mary noted they are a friendly and welcoming and like others, also trying to attract younger members.

Martin Hollingsworth, publicity officer for Kirton in Lindsey Amateur Gardeners reminded everyone that the group meets at the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month November-July and arranges outings in the summer. The group also organise the Daffodil Delight Show in the spring and Annual Show in September. In May the group will run their fundraising stall in the Market Place.

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Emma Clipsham, the Acting Principle of Kirton Primary Academy introduced herself and noted the keen interest of the school to become more involved inside and outside with the community. Emma also noted the active School Council and sought any help from the community to help develop the outside spaces of the Academy. Emma hoped that the Primary Academy was doing the town proud.

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.

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