

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Haltham
Horncastle
LN9 6JG

10th December 2018

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear Mr Schofield, Chairman Haltham Parish Meeting

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please send me:

- A copy of the minutes of all meetings involving the Chair, Vice Chair and Acting Clerk between 10th Oct 2018 and 9th Dec 2018 incl
- Minutes of the meeting specifically relating to the decision to cut the mature trees on the village green
- Haltham Parish Meeting Standing Orders
- Job description of the Acting Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

I would like the above information to be provided to me either as a paper or electronic copy

[If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary?

If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully
[REDACTED]

From: **Mike Schofield** mikesschofield@outlook.com
Subject: **Missing email**
Date: 25 February 2019 at 12:52
To: [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Here is my email address. Please send your original email to me again. I have not received it, noting that you say you sent it on the 10 Dec 18.

If you have constructive criticism of the village web pages on the ELDC website and can help us improve it, then please feed them into [REDACTED] who will be pleased to action them.

I do hope that as a small village we can deal with matters in a sensible and polite way. I find it surprising that I have received a notification from the Information Commission, responding to a complaint from you about not receiving some information from me, when you live 120 metres down the road from me! That you will not now verbally tell me what the issue and your complaint is, in order that I can deal with it, strikes me as odd and I am concerned about your motivation and intent!

I am motivated to do the best for the village and its residents and I sincerely hope that all villagers wish the same.

Yours,

Mike

From: casework@ico.org.uk
Subject: FOI complaint to the ICO[Ref. FS50816203]
Date: 25 February 2019 at 13:52
To: mikesschofield@outlook.com

25th February 2019

Case Reference Number FS50816203

Dear Mr Schofield,

With relation to our telephone conversation earlier today, please find attached [REDACTED] original letter from 10/12/2018.

Please respond to [REDACTED] in 10 working days from today (which would be 11/03/2019).

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Case Officer
Information Commissioner's Office

For information about what we do with personal data see our [privacy notice](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Missing email
Date: 25 February 2019 at 14:26
To: mikesschofield@outlook.com

Dear Mr Schofield

Further to your telephone conversation earlier today I have relayed our conversation to [REDACTED] Case Officer, Information Commissioner's Office who has informed me he will contact you again.

With regard to the following statements:

- I do hope that as a small village we can deal with matters in a sensible and polite way.
- when you live 120 metres down the road from me!

I do recall that when I requested information relating to the PCC's public liability insurance prior to the Christmas Concert, which the Vice Chair and Acting Clerk didn't have a problem with, you immediately contacted the vicar alleging that I had threatened to cancel the event

My letter to you actually extended an opportunity for you to contact me if you needed to discuss my request. Why didn't you deal with this matter in a sensible and polite way !!! It appears you are a man of 'double standards'

Given the recent history of verbal misinterpretations, recollections of formal documents of business by elected officers and Clerk of Haltham Parish Meeting, which has led to the unfortunate resignations of a Vice Chair and Chair accordingly responses in writing are there for all to see.

On a more positive note you are to be commended for the contributions you have made to the village since taking on the role of Chair.

Given that AOL has issues with gmail can you please confirm that you have received this communication.

Yours

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Schofield <mikesschofield@outlook.com>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 25 Feb 2019 12:52
Subject: Missing email

[REDACTED]

Here is my email address. Please send your original email to me again. I have not received it, noting that you say you sent it on the 10 Dec 18.

If you have constructive criticism of the village web pages on the ELDC website and can help us improve it, then please feed them into [REDACTED] who will be pleased to action them.

I do hope that as a small village we can deal with matters in a sensible and polite way. I find it surprising that I have received a notification from the Information Commission, responding to a complaint from you about not receiving some information from me, I do hope that as a small village we can deal with matters in a sensible and polite way. That you will not now verbally tell me what the issue and your complaint is, in order that I can deal with it, strikes me as odd and I am concerned about your motivation and intent!

I am motivated to do the best for the village and its residents and I sincerely hope that all villagers wish the same.

Yours,

Mike

From: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information request
Date: 28 February 2019 at 09:13
To: mikesschofield@outlook.com

For information

Dear Mr Schofield

With regard to your comment below please refer to the email I sent to you on 16/01/2019 to which you have never referred to.

I am sure you can fully appreciate, given past experiences with Haltham Parish Meeting, why I prefer to correspond in writing.

Dear [Redacted]

I have been forwarded a copy of your original request by [Redacted] of the Information Commission. I am sorry that I didn't respond at the time but I had not received the email when you originally sent it. I would be grateful in the future, if you do not receive a response, you would be kind enough to call me to draw my attention to the fact.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]
To: mikesschofield <mikesschofield@outlook.com>
Sent: Wed, 16 Jan 2019 10:00
Subject: Freedom of Information request

To Mr M Schofield, Chair of Haltham Parish Meeting

Re: Freedom of Information Request 10th December 2018

16th January 2019

Dear Mr Schofield

Further to the request I posted to you on 10th December 2018 to which I have not received either an acknowledgement, the information requested or a reason why you have not been able to provide me with the information I write to remind you that the twenty day period you had to respond has now been exceeded.

The Information Commissioner's Office has been notified of the situation and has advised me to contact you again regarding this matter.

If I do not receive a response from you I have been instructed to forward all correspondence relating this matter to them, whereby they will take up this matter with you on my behalf.

Attached:

Copy of request dated 10/12/2018

Yours faithfully

[Redacted Signature]

Not received
My reply to Paul

Called Paul to tell him e-mail not received. Asked him to re-send it and all me in future if no reply received. He said he would do it!
VJ

To: Mr J Huthwaite, Clerk to Haltham Parish Meeting

Re: The Village Green Project

Your response to my email dated 25/09/19

Thank you for your response to my email of 25/09/19

You begin your response by stating that 'you raise concerns about the village project and grant for courses'

This statement is completely untrue and distorts the real reason for my email to you which requests information 'in order for me to gain a greater insight into exactly what the project aims to achieve'

There is clear distinction between 'raising a concern' and 'gaining an insight'

My email to you does not, in my opinion, raise any concerns with regard to the Village Project.

Therefore, unless you can quote any statements contained within my email which supports your interpretation of my email to you, I

request that you retract your statement given that it misrepresents the true purpose of my communication to the recipients identified.

With regard to the £65 awarded towards LALC training courses my email states 'could you, therefore, identify how this money has been assigned'. There is no inference here either that constitutes a 'concern' it is merely a request for clarification.

I understand that a grant of £500 was awarded to Haltham Parish Meeting on 11/02/2019. The following statements are the only references I can find which give me an insight to what the Grant aims to achieve.

- the draft minutes Haltham Parish Meeting, held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 - £500 has been donated, arranged by [REDACTED] to go towards improving the entrance, security fencing? and general improvements to the area known as the village green. A scheme needs to be agreed and in place in order to get the work carried out. The grant has to be spent in 12 month period from receipt.
- The HALTHAM PARISH NEWSLETTER JULY 2019 – The Dog Show showed good use of the Village Green and we have been granted funds to improve it. This will include erecting a fence? on the pub car park side of the Green but there is need to clarify the boundary on that side and we are in discussion with the [REDACTED] car park owners to confirm the exact boundary using title deeds etc.
- Haltham Parish Meeting web page, Letter dated 11/02/19 – confirms the awarding of the grant and states 'You must keep the awarding Councillor updated on the progress of your project and advise them when the project is complete'
- Response to my email from District Councillor William Gray 24/09/19 – 'I awarded a grant to 'kick start' the Village Green Project. It was the sum of £500 towards creating a safe access to the village green and providing play equipment? He also clearly states ' but not to erect fencing? along the boundary of the Village Green'
- Clerk to Haltham Parish Meeting's response to my request for information 03/10/19 – 'It has not been possible to develop and take forward ANY plan, including the fencing? for the Village Green Project and Grant monies at present. 'We are unaware of any Grant Money or Parish Funds having been made allocated to erect fencing?' along the village green boundary'.

Having tried to inwardly digest the above confusion and contradiction I thought that by requesting a copy of the Grant Application Form and Progress Reports this would clarify the aims, objectives and progress of the Project.

To date I have received nothing!!!

I am extremely disappointed that Mr Schofield, Chair of Haltham Parish Meeting, would not sanction the release of this information or even provide me with the detail of the Application Form itself or an explanation as to why this decision had been taken.

Given that the Information Commissioner's Office has already had to intervene on my behalf earlier this year when Mr Schofield ignored two requests for information I thought he may have reconsidered his position regarding the freedom of information but he has obviously not. This clearly sends a concerning message, not only to me, but the residents of Haltham that he does not subscribe to a policy of 'openness and transparency'.

I look forward to hearing, nine months on from when the Grant was awarded, why a clear action plan which identified the aims, objectives, costing, progress and outcomes was beyond the competences of those involved.

Conclusion

I can only conclude that, to date, that the whole process has been badly led, shambolic in its implementation and communication and achieved absolutely nothing!!!

John Huthwaite
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "John Huthwaite" <jwhuthers@gmail.com>

Date: 26 September 2019 at 21:43:12 BST

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Hailham Parish Meeting - [REDACTED] request for information and matters concerning the area known as the village green (open space) given over the village in 1993

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for ringing me last evening, appreciated.

Further to our conversation, I attach the email that I received yesterday from [REDACTED]

I do also take this opportunity to confirm that neither the Chairman, Vice Chairman or I have ever told the village that the grant that you obtained for us will be used to erect fencing around the area known as the Village Green.

Indeed we are fully aware that to spend this grant money we need to involve the village in order for them to agree to any suggested scheme that are within the conditions of the grant. The conditions by which we are bound will be complied with.

I do know that there is a wish of villagers to have a fence line between the car park boundary (of the Marmion Property) and the area known as the village green. Again this has never been discussed at our Parish Meetings and therefore there is no authority for us to spend any of the village funds until agreement has been obtained through a Parish Meeting. This applies both to the grant money that we have and also our general funds. I also take this opportunity to confirm that there is a Parish Meeting planned for the month of October.

The area that we were initially looking at to improve is the entrance into the "Village Green" and to develop a scheme to put to the village in order to get approval.

I do confirm that we are now in dispute with the owner of the [REDACTED] who has put claim to a section of land that what we believe is part of the "Village Green".

As there is now a dispute over land ownership, we are not able to develop and present a scheme (using the grant) to the village in order to improve the entrance area to the "Village Green" and will not be able to do so until the dispute is resolved.

As these matters can take some time to resolve, I now ask if the time period for spending the grant money be can be extended from that laid down in the grant conditions.

It is unclear at present how long the issue will take to resolve, we would be grateful therefore if the grant be extended for a further 12 months from the present expiry date.

As regard to the grant money for the training from LALC, this is as you know is for attending training courses throughout the year until the end of March 2020. At present no courses have

been attended but I am booked for audit training (date to be determined) with LALC. I will of course inform you of those courses that are attended by either the Chairman, Vice Chairman or myself throughout the year as a matter of courtesy for your assistance in obtaining the £65 grant money.

We in the village are aware that [REDACTED] has been giving advice to the owner of the [REDACTED] regarding the boundary dispute that is ongoing with the village. [REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Kind Regards

John Huthwaite
Clerk Haltham Parish Meeting

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2019 15:48
To: John Huthwaite
Subject: The Village Green Project

To Mr J Huthwaite, Clerk to Haltham Parish Meeting

Re: The Village Green Project

Dear Mr Huthwaite

Following a brief communication with [REDACTED] in relation to the £565 awarded to Haltham Parish Meeting from East Lindsey District Council's Councillors' Community Grants Scheme on the 11th February 2019 could you please forward me a copy of the application form in order for me to gain a greater insight into exactly what the project aims to achieve.

I understand that the funding, according to [REDACTED] was not intended to fund any fencing along the village green boundary.

My understanding is that the Village Green Project would be developed in stages and that the letter you received from East Lindsey clearly states that ' You must keep the awarding Councillor updated on the progress of your project'

Therefore can you please provide me with copies of your updates given that this grant was awarded on 11th February 2019.

Finally, I understand that £65 of the grant was awarded towards LALC training courses could you, therefore, identify how this money has been assigned.

I look forward to your response, at your earliest convenience, which I will share with [REDACTED] accordingly.

[REDACTED]

John Huthwaite

From: John Huthwaite <jwhuthers@gmail.com>
Sent: 03 October 2019 12:30
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: The Village Green Project

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email in which you raise concerns about the village project and the grant for courses.

Regarding the request to receive a copy of the Community Grants Application Form please deal directly with East Lindsey District Council.

It has not been possible to develop and take forward ANY plan, including fencing for the Village Green Project and Grant monies at present. This issue will be raised at the next Parish Meeting Agenda.

We hope that you will attend the Meeting and we would welcome any input from yourself. Your insight based on long experience with the village will no doubt be a valuable contribution to the Parish Meeting.

If you are unable to attend then of course a written input from you would be possible and welcomed.

We are unaware of any Grant Money or Parish Funds having been allocated to erect fencing "along the village green boundary".

The £65 Grant for training covers the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 inclusive. Details of bookings will be announced at the next Parish Meeting.

The date of the next Parish Meeting will be posted on the Village Notice Board this week.

Our Chairman once again takes this opportunity to remind you that you are always welcome to visit him and talk through any concerns that you have regarding the village, in order that they may be addressed at the time of your concerns being raised.

Please note that I have copied [REDACTED] into this email.

Regards

John Huthwaite
Clerk Haltham Parish Meeting

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2019 15:48
To: John Huthwaite
Subject: The Village Green Project

To Mr J Huthwaite, Clerk to Haltham Parish Meeting

Re: The Village Green Project

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I look forward to your response, at your earliest convenience, which I will share with [REDACTED] accordingly.

Mr [REDACTED]