

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FINNINGLEY,
ON TUESDAY 19TH APRIL 2016 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Cllrs R Johnson (Chairman), Mrs I Batunas, W Bedford, Mrs J Tuff, Mrs C Sheriff, Mrs C Styring and B Worsfold
Mrs J Leighton-Eshelby – Clerk
Ward Councillors Jane Cox and Steve Cox
Mr Roy Hattersley

1. TO RECEIVE/ACCEPT APOLOGIES – All members of the Parish Council were present, Stephen Racjan (DMBC)

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly I would like to thank the members of the council for their support and enthusiasm over the past year. Of the six councillors elected in May 2015 four were new to the council; one additional member was co-opted in June. I am amazed at how quickly the new members have settled in and got to grips with the sometimes frustrating world of local government. Over the 11 meetings since May last year we have had a 94% attendance, which is excellent. Only holidays and taking time off to go on honeymoon got in the way of members being here!

I would also like to thank our clerk, Julie, for her good work and who despite a couple times during the year when she has not felt well and should probably have stayed at home, has made every meeting.

I would just like to make a few comments on the year.

Regrettably we have made no further progress in providing land for Allotments. We have not given up and will continue to explore all possibilities over the next year.

The Parish Precept for 2016-17 shows a "zero" percentage increase for Finningley residents. Council Tax bills will however increase by about 3.7% due to increases made by Doncaster Council, The S Y Police & Crime Commissioner and S Y Fire & Rescue Services.

We are pleased to say that, after many years of hard work by a lot of people, the new Pavilion is underway. Just to set the record straight, we were not given a donation of £250,000 from Doncaster Council; that money came from building developments in Blaxton and Finningley and was paid by the developers. Doncaster Council collected and held the money until we made a commercial case for it and requested its release. The report in the Doncaster Free Press was almost entirely inaccurate and caused annoyance and misunderstanding in both villages. I would like to thank the members of Blaxton Parish Council for their support, both for the playing field and the pavilion project. Without their understanding and cooperation the new pavilion project would have been impossible.

The refurbishment of the Village Hall was completed in September. Because incorrect paint had been applied in the past the building had to be stripped of all exterior paint and three coats of fresh lime-wash applied. We also made some repairs to the roof. The Parish Council had anticipated the need for this work and had made provision to meet the cost.

The Councils website has for many years been maintained by David Lindley. As you know, David retired from the Council last year, but has kindly continued to update the website. Over the past couple of months Steve Sheriff has developed a new website

based on a new domain name of www.finningleyparishcouncil.org/. The new website is now up and running as our official site and will be maintained by Steve. Our thanks go to David Lindley for all his time and effort over the years and to Steve Sheriff for his excellent work on the new site.

This year we have continued to distribute our quarterly Newsletter to every home in the village. I am told by residents that they are appreciated and we do get feedback on the topics we feature. We will continually review the ways we communicate with residents and our new website offers some new opportunities, but for the foreseeable future we will continue to distribute the Newsletter.

Our aim as a Parish Council is to provide the services and actions necessary to meet local needs and to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the community. We welcome feedback from residents on how we can improve in any of these tasks.

3. ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH

It was noted that unfortunately a number of patches have appeared on the exterior walls of the village hall and that the Parish Council were holding a meeting later in the week to discuss this with Bonsers (contractors).

Councillor Mrs C Sheriff thanked the Chairman for all his hard work over the last year.

The meeting ended at 7.10pm.

Chairman: