

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FINNINGLEY,
ON TUESDAY 15TH MAY 2018 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Cllrs R Johnson (Chairman), W Bedford, R Castle, J Clarke and Mrs C Styring
Stephen Racjan (DMBC)
Mr Roy Hattersley
One member of the public

1. TO RECEIVE/ACCEPT APOLOGIES – Councillor B Worsfold

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We entered the new year, April 2017, with two Parish Council vacancies. I am pleased to welcome Jason Clarke, who joined the Council in June 2017 and Rob Castle who joined in September 2017, each of whom bring a range of skills and knowledge to the Council.

Sadly, Charlotte Sheriff resigned from the Council in March 2018, creating another vacancy that has yet to be filled. The Council and the Community will miss Charlotte and I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the past 6 years.

It has been a challenging year but we have made progress in a number of areas.

Despite Dominium Developments Limited and its principals, who I will not name here for legal reasons, we managed to complete the new Pavilion. Councillor Bill Worsfold deserves considerable praise for taking over the management of the pavilion project following our legal termination of the contract with Dominium Developments. It is down to his efforts, with support from the Council, that we now have a fully functioning pavilion that is being well used.

At last we might be making some progress with providing a site for Allotments. A number of meetings with the Airport has resulted in their agreement to support a "trial" on a site adjacent to the airport. We are currently working with them and the Allotments Society to reach the point that we can make a formal planning application to provide allotments on the site.

Despite increasing costs, we have again held the Parish Precept for 2018-19 at a zero-percentage increase for each household. The precept is spent in maintaining the village in good order with particular attention to the village pond, the five village greens, the area around the Village Hall and the playing field.

Looking forward 2018-19 will again be a challenging year.

We, along with other Parish Councils, are required to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) to be introduced May 25th 2018. Fines for non-compliance are potentially huge. We are working with Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA) and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to ensure compliance.

We have a number of contested Planning issues with Doncaster Council that we will continue to try and resolve. We are unhappy with the way that Doncaster Council Planning Department agree conditions when granting planning consent but then do not, without good reason or explanation, enforce those conditions when applicants seemingly change their mind or priorities.

Communication remains an issue. Despite our "open meetings", the production and distribution of four newsletters per year (hand delivered to every house in the village), our website which is kept up to date (thanks to our webmaster Steve Sheriff), notice boards at the Post Office, the playing field and Village Hall we have still, during the year, received criticism for being "secretive". We are required by law to be open and transparent. We put a lot of effort into communication and will continue to do so.

I will close by thanking the two councillors so far not mentioned, Will Bedford and Christine Styring, for their work during the year, both contribute greatly to the work of the Council. And last, but by no means least, our Clerk, Julie, who keeps us all, but especially me, on the straight and narrow.

3. ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH - No Issues Raised

Chairman: