

FINNINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Website: www.finningleyparishcouncil.org



Newsletter – March 2019

The Pond

You will no doubt have noticed the nets of Barley Straw attached to the islands in the pond, they are there to try and prevent algae growth in the springtime. We will replace with new straw in about 6 weeks' time. If the treatment doesn't work, we will look at other options.



We have also spread 100 Kilograms of Siltex in the pond to try and reduce the silt levels that are building up in the pond. You can help by feeding the ducks on the feeding area and not throwing bread into the pond.

Peafowl in the Village



The Parish Council has, over the past months, received complaints about the increasing numbers of peafowl in the village and the nuisance and damage they are said to cause.

The Parish Council is not responsible for the peafowl. We have also failed to determine an owner. On that basis they are considered as wild animals and rank alongside all other wild animals that choose to come, go or live in the village.

Our position is clear. We will do nothing unless there is a significant number of residents who feel that their number should be reduced or they should be removed. If that was the case, we would ensure that, under the Local Authority duty set out in the Animal Welfare Act 2006, any removal and relocation met with appropriate standards.

The last time opinion on this matter was tested there was a significant majority in favour of keeping the peafowl in the village. That opinion may have changed.

The Parish Council has asked those who are complaining to establish if a significant majority of residents agree that the peafowl should be reduced or removed. Anyone with any suggestion on how the complainants might test opinion can send it to the Parish Council and we will pass it on to them.

Parish Council Vacancy

It is with regret we announce that, for personal reasons, Cllr. Bill Worsfold has resigned from both the Parish Council and the Playing Fields Association. He joined the Council in May 2015 and from that date until his resignation was a member and current Chair of the Playing Fields Association.

Bill has given tremendous service to the community through his work on the Parish Council and the playing fields. It is doubtful that the pavilion would ever have been completed without his efforts. The Council and Playing Fields Association will miss him greatly. Thank you, Bill.



We have to follow a strict procedure to find a replacement for Bill; first we notify DMBC who will post notices informing residents of the resignation and, should residents so wish, exercise their right to call an election to elect a new councillor. This normally takes 21 days from the posting of the notice. If there is no request for an election then the Parish Council will post a notice advertising a "Casual Vacancy". This is for a minimum of 14 days. Anyone who meets the requirements can register an interest with the Chair or Clerk which is then considered by the full Council.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor you can get more information from either the Chairman or the Clerk. Contact details are shown at the end of this Newsletter.

Playing Fields Appeal

For 20 years a few residents have patrolled the playing fields daily, cleaned up the dog mess and collected any rubbish making our field "fit for use" for our football and cricket teams, responsible dog walkers, and as a village recreation facility.

The “workers” are getting old and now finding the winter’s difficult. We desperately need new people to step in, if only occasionally, to help keep our field clean and tidy. The Playing Fields Association would like to hear from anyone who might be interested, either as a volunteer or for a payment, in making a commitment to these tasks. It takes about 30 minutes for two people to walk the field and tidy up, it can take a bit longer on a bad day when there is a lot of rubbish that didn’t make it to a bin or a pile or two of dog poo to clear up.



If you are able to help in any way, please contact the Chair of the Council, details below, for a chat.

Old Bawtry Road – Public Right of Way

There have been a number of residents attending recent Parish Council meetings concerned about the preventing of public access along Old Bawtry Road from Finningley village to Austerfield roundabout. Since the new A614 was opened circa 1970 the Old Bawtry Road, while restricted to vehicles, has been open to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders as an alternative route from the village to Austerfield.

Regrettably, that right of way was never formally documented on the Definitive Map (DMBC Public Rights of Way Bible). In order to get it recorded as a “restricted byway” on the Definitive Map we need as many people as possible to complete a form claiming that they have walked, ridden or cycled the route during the last 20 years – even longer ago would be really good. If we cannot provide that evidence then it is likely that Old Bawtry Road will be blocked at both ends by gates and / or other means.



If you can help, please contact Cllr. Will Bedford, details below, or the Chair via the Councils website for a form to complete. We would value your help in keeping this access open – it may, in the end, become a numbers game, so, the more the merrier.



Village Enhancement Projects

Following a meeting with DMBC a number of possible projects were ruled out as not supported by the available 106 Funding.



They will however support “seating areas”, possibly at the junction of Chapel Lane and Wroot Road and between Blenheim Drive and St Oswald’s, and improvements to the pathway and retention wall around the pond with a view to making the pathway safer and the seating more accessible to pushchairs and mobility vehicles. We are working on quotations.

Allotments

Our planning application (19/00302/COU) for change of use for the plot of land off Church Lane from common agricultural use to residential allotments was made on 15th February 2019 and has yet to be decided by DMBC. If we are successful, we will work with the Allotments Society to get crops growing as soon as possible.



Your Parish Councillors

Parish Council meetings are held at 7:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall. The first 15 minutes of each meeting is available for residents to raise any issues. Minutes of council meetings are available on our website and are displayed on the notice boards at the Village Hall and Post Office.

Richard Johnson (Chairman)	Ashlyne, Chapel Lane	771252
Will Bedford (Vice Chairman)	38 Gatesbridge Park	772165
Rob Castle	18 Gatesbridge Park	772545
Jason Clarke	61 Lower Pasture	482747
Julie Kong	1 Madison Court	772166
Christine Styring	47 Harvey Close	770090

Julie Leighton-Eshelby (Clerk)

finningleypc@yahoo.com

01757 630077

Some useful telephone numbers:

DMBC Customer Services - 736000

DMBC Noise Nuisance Team – 737573

Environment (Smells and Pests) - 0800 807060

Police (crime / incident in progress) – 999

Police (after event / slow response but worth waiting if you need a crime number) – 101