

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FINNINGLEY,
ON TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 2019 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Cllrs R Johnson (Chairman), W Bedford, R Castle, J Clarke, J Kong and Mrs C Styring
Mr Roy Hattersley
Three members of the public

1. TO RECEIVE/ACCEPT APOLOGIES – All members present

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following the resignation of Charlotte Sheriff in March 2018, after due process, we welcomed Julie Kong as a new Council member in June 2018. Regrettably Bill Worsfold resigned in February 2019. We are currently following the same procedures to find a replacement. I am sure we will all miss Bill's humour and contribution and wish him well.

It has been another busy and challenging year. It seems to me that the task of Parish Councils and Parish Councillors gets more demanding every year. Gone are the days when generously funded principal authorities were happy to provide almost any service we required.

Relentless cuts to DMBC budgets has seen much more responsibility pass to Parish & Town Councils who are now required to find a lot of answers and provide services from their own resources. The result is that the role of the Parish Councillor is changing and we now have to deal with a wider range of more complex issues. Time commitment to do the job well is much more than attendance at a monthly meeting. I would like to thank all the members for their willingness to give their time and put in the necessary effort for us to make progress.

We have made progress over the past year in a number of areas:

- After a number of years trying, we have finally obtained Planning Consent for Allotments on the Church Lane site. There is a lot to do to make the site fit for purpose and we will work with the Allotments Society over the next few months to achieve that.
- We have secured funding for improvements to the playing areas on the Joint Playing Field and to add Adult Gym Equipment. There is still work to do to get the money in the bank but that should happen in the next few months. Once we have the money, we can start the work.
- We are working to secure funds for some Village Enhancement projects to include new seating areas and better access for pushchairs and mobility vehicles to the seating around the pond.
- We have led the campaign to keep Old Bawtry Road open as a Public Byway for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. We are indebted to Cllr. Will Bedford for his work on this.
- We continue to have active participation on a number of Committees including The Playing Fields Association; The Village Hall Committee; Wildlife Park Consultative Committee; Airport Noise Monitoring Committee; Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee; IGas Community Liaison Committee (Fracking); The DMBC Public Rights of Way Group, amongst others.

And these do not include our own internal working groups formed to deal with specific issues; the Editorial Committee who produce the Newsletter, the Highway Patrol who try and keep the village in good order and individual members who volunteer to do research into policing, planning, traffic and other issues that we have to deal with from time to time. The village is lucky to have such a hard-working team of Councillors.

I should mention that we have also maintained the Parish Precept for 2019-20 at a zero percent increase for Finningley households.

I look forward to seeing some of our hard work pay off over the next 12 months.

Finally, I would like to thank our Clerk, Julie, for her support to me personally and to the Council over the past year. Our aim for 2019-20 should be for her to get away from meetings earlier.

3. ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH

A resident spoke about a recent bad experience in reporting a crime to the police through the 101 service.

The resident also expressed concern regarding a recent incident on Wroot Road which resulted in a near miss when a teacher stepped into the road to allow children to cross and a vehicle overtook the car in front that had already stopped.

The resident stated that a near miss road incident can and should be reported to the Police and asked the Parish Council to make residents aware of this.

A member of the public raised concern regarding the gates that have been erected on Old Bawtry Road near the Austerfield roundabout and the Chairman advised that the quarry have not yet installed the gates but when installed he has been advised that they will be locked during non-operational hours due to concerns regarding fly tipping.

They also have safety concerns regarding pedestrians and cyclists using the roadway at the same time as HGV's during operating hours.

A member of the public thanked Councillor W Bedford for all his hard work in campaigning to keep Old Bawtry Road open as a public byway for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

A resident raised a question regarding dogs not on leads being allowed on the Playing Field and the Chairman explained the DMBC dog control order changes across the Borough which means that dogs are allowed "off lead" on the Playing Field unless there is an organised event in progress (football / cricket matches or organised training).

The resident also expressed concern regarding the increase in peafowl numbers and the Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council are not responsible for the peafowl and will not (and could not) take any action unless a significant number of residents expressed a desire to see them removed/reduced.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work time and hard work.