

# FINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly, duly convened on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Fincham Memorial Hall. Commenced at 7.00 pm with Councillor Joe Underhill in the Chair.

**Attending:**

Cllr. Shaun Blackmur  
Cllr. Tony Chivers  
Cllr. Cathy O'Brien  
Cllr. Christine Perry  
Cllr. Joe Underhill

Borough Councillor Sandra Squire  
County Councillor Brian Long

Clerk – Sarah Thorpe

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**1. Attendance**

One member of the public was present.

**2. Apologies for absence**

None

**3. Report of the Chairman.**

Cllr. Underhill advised that he had only taken over as Chairman at the last meeting in February as the former Chairman, Cllr. Waterston, had resigned from the PC due to him leaving the area. As he had only been Chairman for two months he did not really have anything to report.

**4. Report of the Borough Councillor.**

Cllr. Squire read out the following report:

This is my first report to you all since taking over from Trevor Manley after the election last May. First of all I'd like to thank you for welcoming me into your community. It's been somewhat of a steep learning curve for me, the training we received from the Borough Council was excellent and I have my colleagues to thank for always making themselves available for any questions and queries.

It's been an interesting year at the Borough Council, as expected the Government once again reduced the amount of money given to local authorities and we are having to make savings. However the council has a great record for finding new ways of working smarter to save costs.

I expect this to continue into the coming year under our forthcoming new leadership.

The issue of the Borough not having a 5 year land supply has caused some planning headaches right around the Borough, not just here. This wasn't restricted to our Borough alone, 83% of councils across the country have had the same issues. However, last week the news came that we believe that we now have a 5 year land supply, as a result - all future planning applications will be decided by local planning policy, rather than the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework). I have also been notified that the application for development off Churchill Crescent has been withdrawn.

I hope that in my first year of being your Borough Councillor I have been of some small help to you, and look forward to working with you a lot more in the future. I can always be contacted regarding any issues that anyone may have, I try to attend Parish Council meetings as much as possible, small family permitting. I am just at the end of the phone or email if anyone wishes to speak to me between meetings.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Report of the County Councillor.**

Cllr. Long advised that it had been an unusual year the County Council (CC) as the budget setting is normally a period of political argy-bargue but this year it had been negotiated and agreed by consensus. The CC had agreed to put up the Council Tax by the maximum that they were allowed without a referendum of 1.99% with an additional 2% for adult social care. Over the last few years there had been no increase but this year the government cut back what it was paying to the CC and therefore an increase was necessary.

Over the last year Cllr. Long had begun to be involved with children's services and was now the dependents spokesperson for the Conservative Party. This was not his usual area as he was more familiar with environment and waste issues. He was now the corporate parent for 1035 children that were in care in the County.

Since June 2015 he had been Chairman of the County Planning and this was for a period of one year so would end in June 2016. County Planning deals with applications connected to waste, environmental services, schools and its own applications.

At the start of this week he had just been elected as the new Leader of the BC and would take up the post from May 2016.

Cllr. Underhill congratulated him on his election as Leader of the BC.

**6. Open Forum**

Cllr. Underhill called for questions from the Public.

Cllr. O'Brien advised that a member of the public had asked her to raise their concerns over the condition of the former Bexwell Tractors site. It was reported that tiles were being removed from the roof and as this was within the conservation area it was felt that planning permission would be needed for any work.

A discussion took place on the regulations regarding work carried out in the conservation area and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Pam Lynn, the BC Conservation Officer, to establish the situation generally and also report the situation regarding the former Bexwell Tractors site and then put an item in the next newsletter to inform all residents of the situation.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_