

FINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly, duly convened on Wednesday, 28th March 2018 at Fincham Memorial Hall. Commenced at 7.00pm with Councillor John Delderfield in the Chair.

Attending:

Cllr. David Bennett
Cllr. John Delderfield
Cllr. Cathy O'Brien
Cllr. Christine Perry
Cllr. Barbara Ponder
Cllr. Joe Underhill

Cllr. Sandra Squire (Borough Councillor)

Clerk – Sarah Thorpe

1. Attendance

No members of the public were present.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Alan Foreman.

3. Minutes of the last Parish Assembly on 22nd March 2017

Draft minutes from the meeting had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. It was agreed by all present at that meeting that the minutes were an accurate account of the proceedings.

4. Report of the Chairman.

Cllr. Delderfield read out the following report:

During the course of the last year, with just one exception, Parish Council membership has been consistent. Councillor Jackie Anderson resigned last November, and Councillor David Bennett was co-opted, in her place, at the Parish Council meeting on 22nd January.

Throughout the year since the last Annual Parish Assembly, the Parish Council have had 9 meetings, dealing with many issues, on behalf of Fincham residents.

The Parish Council are consulted as part of the Borough Council's planning application process, and the major issues this year were;

(a) The proposed demolition of two barns, and replacement with two properties at Church Farm Barns, off the High Street, was refused.

(b) Work to build 4 properties on the former site of Bexwell Tractors in the High Street has not yet started, though some preparation work has begun.

(c) Work to build 5 houses in Marham Road, adjacent to the Telephone Exchange, has not yet started

The Parish Council acquired a Speed Activating Messaging Sign (SAM2) at the beginning of October last year. This was bought, in partnership, with Crimplesham Parish Council, and we have it for alternate months.

The three sites that have been agreed for its monthly location are:

(a) opposite the memorial hall,

(b) in the church layby, and

(c) in Marham Road at the junction with Churchill Crescent.

All three sites have been used once, so far, and the resultant information on traffic volumes and speeds is being regularly analysed. Residents living near the locations have reported that vehicles are generally slowing as a result. The Council is looking at setting up a Community Speedwatch team, in conjunction with the police, and volunteers to join this would be most welcome, and should contact the Parish Clerk.

Finally, your Parish Councillors carry out many tasks, on Parish issues, not just attending Parish Council meetings, volunteering to undertake the duties associated with maintaining and running the village in the interests of the people of Fincham, for which I thank them.

Fincham residents are most welcome at Parish Council meetings and are encouraged to report any issues they are concerned about to the Parish Council.

5. Report of the Borough Councillor.

Cllr. Squire read out the following report:

PA/18/2

Here we are at the end of my third year as your Borough Councillor, approaching sadly my last.

As you may know there are proposals for Boundary changes at the Borough Council. Currently the proposals are that the Wimbotsham with Fincham ward will be split between its neighbouring wards. So Fincham would then be part of Airfield ward with Marham, Pentney, Shouldham, Wormegay & Runcton Holme.

Things are always busy at the Borough Council, sadly due to cuts in support from government, we had to increase council tax and parking charges in the Borough again.

Although the Borough is very good at looking for ways of sharing services, locations and finding ways of working smarter. Such as the relocation of the Department for Work and Pensions into our King's Court office.

Recently there has been a lot going on, with the launch of the #lovewestnorfolk campaign to celebrate everything that we love about living and working in West Norfolk. For me, that has to be our coast and the people here.

Recently the Borough announced some new services to tackle homelessness in the Borough, which have been especially welcomed. I myself slept out for a night in King's Lynn, while it was snowing, to raise awareness of homelessness.

We also have brought in new powers to fine rogue landlords which hopefully will see the quality of rental properties improve for the benefit of all tenants of rented properties.

And finally, last week, there was the launch of the new local lottery "West Norfolk Wins" which aims to raise money for lots of local causes. 60% of all the money from ticket sales will go to good causes, all of which are local.

I look forward to serving you as your Borough Councillor for another year before passing on the baton so to speak. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me about any issues, big or small, that you may have.

6. Report of the County Councillor.

Cllr. Long was not present and no report had been provided.

7. Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____