

Minutes of the Firbeck ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on the 26th May 2021 at Firbeck Village Hall, New Road Firbeck at 7.00pm

Present: Parish Council Chair, Caroline Jopling.
10 Parishioners, 3 Ward Councillors

The Chair welcomed those who attended the meeting.

1. Approval of the 2019 Annual Parish Minutes.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 24th April 2019 be approved.

2. Annual Report by the Chair of the Parish Council

The outgoing Chair, Chris Stanton, presented his report on this year's activities. Issues during the year included:

- a. Supporting the village for the Covid-19 pandemic, including Cllr Jopling's arrangements for food collections, supported by volunteers, which lasted for 12 weeks. In addition, Firbeck Friends provided further support e.g. collection of prescriptions.
- b. Jo and Dirk Pittard were co-opted on to the council, in Sep 20, enabling Wendy Hamilton to resign a month later after 5 years' dedicated service to the council.
- c. Firbeck Hall – two new planning applications in Nov 20 sought to make significant changes to the nature and scale of the development. The council sought comments from all parishioners before submitting a letter of objection in Jan 21. The RMBC Planning Board is yet to meet to decide on the new applications.
- d. The main sewer remains problematic, frequently blocking and causing associated issues. Severn Trent have undertaken an extensive survey of the village network with a view to resolving the current problems.
- e. Surface water drainage remains an issue but, thankfully, no serious flooding has been experienced as yet.
- f. The RMBC Rights of Way Department has agreed to resurface Salt Hill as far as the bridge with a horse/pedestrian friendly surface, but will not complete the works until the RMBC surface drainage team have decided on their course of action.
- g. The telephone box has undergone maintenance with the external painting almost complete. Future use is to be decided.
- h. The defibrillator continues to be maintained by Andy Shiel and has been deployed on a number of occasions. A second device is under consideration.
- i. The village planters have once again been kindly maintained by Julie and Brian Dunker – volunteers to water the planters close to where they live are always welcome.
- j. Whilst there was no actual Christmas Tree Festival in 2020 due to the pandemic, we nevertheless maintained our usual presence of trees and, additionally, added decorations painted by children and others as part of a wider plan to hopefully enhance the festival in the future.

3. Presentations by Organisations and Groups.

Owing to the pandemic, some presentations were written rather than verbal.

Village Hall Committee.

Richard Collins thanked all committee members for their efforts and the village for its support,

especially with help completing repairs and a re-decoration during closure. The Hall had been closed almost completely since Mar 20 but regular events would hopefully start again soon. Grants had kept the Hall running, and a new shed had been purchased. There was also plans afoot to re-design the garden.

Parochial Church Council

Nicky Blythe provided a summary of PCC activities and that 'focal ministers' take services in place of a dedicated vicar. Owing to the pandemic, the church had often only been open for private prayer and therefore communications (especially by electronic) had necessarily been enhanced to reach the community. Services and prayer meetings would hopefully re-start soon

Firbeck and Letwell Women's Institute

Janice Pritchard stated that no meeting had been held but were planned to re-commence in September. It was to be the group's 75th anniversary in July.

Friends of Firbeck Hall

Valerie Oxley provided an overview of the work that slowed, then stopped, on re-development in 2020 due to the new enabling applications. FoFH issues three newsletters annually

Poppy Appeal

Chris Stanton advised that no door-to-door collections were possible in 2020, and takings were therefore affected by c.50%.

Worksop Probus

Chris Stanton informed those present that the group had held no physical meetings, and online meetings only from October. The 21-22 programme of events, starting in September, would be published in July.

Firbeck Readers Group

Written report - group still active and hope to return to live meetings soon. Although a closed group, expressions of interest are welcome for when spaces become available.

Play Reading Group

Group still active and new members are welcome.

Yorkshire Countrywomens Association

Written report – no meetings held but a splendid programme of events is planned for when they return. New members welcome.

Scarecrow Committee

Those present were advised that +£1300 was raised for village funds from the last event and donated to local organisations. The next event would not be until 2022.

Firbeck Treasure Hunt

Written report - held in May, the event was a great success in helping the community explore the village by following clues to 'pirate treasure'. Thanks to Simon Copley and the volunteers for managing the event, and to the council and Village Hall committee for donations. A total of £91 was raised for the Rotherham Food Bank.

Firbeck Friends

Written report – Volunteers provided help to many in the village wherever possible, largely by way of collecting prescriptions for individuals shielding during the pandemic. Thanks for the two coordinators, and the council for financial support.

4. Firbeck Community Enhancement Projects

Four initiatives under the umbrella of the 'I Love Firbeck' project were outlined:

- a. Entry into the Yorkshire in Bloom competition.
- b. A photographic competition that could lead to a Firbeck calendar.
- c. Firbeck Folklore – a project to capture village stories.
- d. A 'Living History' project.

Further details on the initiatives will be published in due course.

4. Any Other Business

Neighbourhood Plan

The council were soon to commence work on a village 'neighbourhood plan' and would require support from the village. Further details soon.

Neighbourhood Watch

Caroline Jopling had run an informal neighbourhood watch scheme for several years and now sought a volunteer to take over the running of this scheme.

Ward Councillors

The three newly elected ward councillors for the area (Ben Whomersley, Sophie Castledine-Dack and Charlie Wooding) were all present and introduced themselves to the community.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm

Signed

Dated.....