

# Dunnington Parish Council

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 31 MAY 2022

READING ROOM AT 7.00PM

### MINUTES

#### **Present**

CLr Gill Shaw (Parish Council Chairman), Ward Councillor Mark Warters and 20 electors

#### **Welcome and Annual Review – CLr Gill Shaw**

Good evening and thank you all for coming tonight. It's nice to be able to hold this meeting face to face having not been able to hold one for 2 years due to Covid restrictions.

I am Gill Shaw and I am Chairman of Dunnington Parish Council a position I have held for 2 years.

Over the last 2 years there have been changes to the line - up of Parish Councillors and I would like to thank those Councillors that have stood down for their service to the community.

We now have some new Councillors and I would like to welcome them and thank them for agreeing to serve on the Parish Council.

We have also had a change in our Parish Clerk. Following the departure of Julie Bone I would like to introduce you to our new Parish Clerk Jessica Bedford. Jessica has been with us some 6 months now and has already made a difference.

Looking back over the past 2 years Dunnington continues to be a desirable and safe place to live. This is borne out by the police report the Parish Council receives each month from North Yorkshire Police. Where possible North Yorkshire Police attend the monthly Parish Council meeting and I would like to thank them for their presence. North Yorkshire Police are keen to attend village events and to work with the community. So if you are organising an event please bear this in mind.

During the Covid pandemic many people had to change the way they worked. The In-Bloom team were forced to change the way they worked due to social distancing. However they continued to work tirelessly to keep Dunnington looking wonderful all year. On behalf of the residents I would like to thank them for their dedication.

With climate change on most people's lips it is important that we protect our environment for future generations. Trees play an important role and the Parish Council in conjunction with the Environmental Advisory Group and Planning Committee will continue to object to trees being felled un-necessarily. Where possible we will ensure new trees are replaced where trees are felled.

Three native oak trees have been planted this year to celebrate the Queens' Platinum Jubilee, one on each of the Greens. For those people who saw the picture of me planting the first oak I really did dig the hole!

Last summer residents will have seen the new flower beds opposite the play park. Following the positive response from residents, the Parish Council decided to seed a few more wild flower beds this year on another Green. I am sure we will all be looking forward to a wonderful display in the summer.

The Parish Council could not have developed these initiatives without the support of members of Dunnington Conservation Group, the local Tremendous Champion, the local Green initiatives Group and various volunteers who have helped with hedge planting and the maintenance working parties. I would like to thank Councillor Liz Turnbull for her hard work in tirelessly working to make Dunnington a greener place to live. Incidentally Liz has produced an Environmental Report covering the past twelve months and I will arrange for this to be placed on the Dunnington Parish Council website. Unfortunately Liz could not be with us tonight.

The Parish Council continues to support and to work with various groups and clubs around the Parish, the play park being one such group. The equipment in the play park has to be regularly inspected to ensure the safety of the children who use it. The funding for the play park comes from Parish funds and from Ward Grants. The maintenance of the play park area and the safety inspections are carried out by volunteers. One of these volunteers is Councillor John Maggs. A big thank you goes to John who cannot be with us tonight as he is unwell. I am sure you will join me in wishing John a speedy recovery.

The Playing Fields Committee in conjunction with financial support from the Parish Council has seen the roof of the squash courts and solar panels installed on the roof of the Sports and Social Club.

Behind the scenes there has been a lot of work going on. This ranges from ensuring that the Parish Council remains compliant by keeping up to date with the latest legislation governing Government bodies which apply to Parish Councils to bringing up to date the terms and conditions that apply to the Parish Council's allotments.

If you have any suggestions you would like to put forward there is a suggestion box on the stage with suggestion cards and pens. If you require a response remember to add your name, email address and phone number.

It only remains for me to thank you all for coming and to tell you that refreshments are being served in the small hall next door.

### **Allotments and Cemetery – Cllr Marian Ruston**

The Allotment Advisory Group was formed last year following a dispute about rent increases for the allotments to help try to resolve it. It is made up of Allotment holders and Parish Councillors. Several meetings have been held which has improved communications between the allotment holders and the Parish Council. These meetings will be held every quarter. The running costs of the allotments have been worked out which has enabled a budget to be set and a new rent structure devised which both parties are happy with. The 2 allotment sites (the Green and Undergate Field) have been remeasured and renumbered. Terms and Conditions have been written for the first time which have been approved by the Parish Council and are now been fine tuned by the Allotment Advisory Group. Risk assessments have been under taken for the 1st time.

A new roof has been fitted to the shed on the Green site and an old asbestos one removed. A new door and window is due to be fitted to the shed as well. Extra water taps have been fitted on the Undergate Field site by the Allotment holders. New noticeboards have been ordered for both sites.

Quarterly inspections of the allotments will now be carried out by the Allotment Advisory Group rather than just the PC. Disputes will now hopefully be managed by the allotment holder members of the group before being brought to the full group and then if required to the PC.

This we hope will sort out problems before they escalate.

The PC has arranged for a contract gardener to mow the grass on the allotments through the summer season so that the grass cutting does not rely on the goodwill of a few allotment holders.

An abandoned allotment has been cleared and re-let. Nearly all of the allotments have been let and the waiting list if those wanting a site now is down to nil.

The PC is very pleased that we are now working with the allotment holders to manage the allotment sites which we hope will enable the sites to be managed much more effectively for everyone's benefit. The PC has arranged for a contract gardener to mow the grass on the allotments through the summer season.

The day to day running of the Cemetery is managed by our Parish Clerk. There is small group of Parish Councillors who make up the Cemetery Advisory Group, giving additional guidance to the Clerk when necessary. Currently the Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery are being updated by the group and we are working to move phase 2 forward.

Phase 1 was opened in October 2011 with 112 grave and 69 ashes plots, now just over 10 years on the Cemetery has only 22 burial plots and 5 ashes plots left. So it is very evident how needed this cemetery was and we have to thank the foresight of a previous Parish Council chairman, the late ....., in organising the purchase of this site and the planning of it.

Preparations for phase 2 have been under way for sometime, as well as general maintenance for the site.

A large diseased ash tree was removed last year, the tree was chipped and the chippings used on the site and also recycled on other bits of parish land. Following the tree removal the site is going to be levelled. The existing drainage pipe has been extended south to north across phase 2 and cross pipes from east to west were also installed to filter into this. There is now a new access road on the eastern side of the cemetery.

A section has been removed from the hawthorn hedge at the back of phase 1 to permit a central access to phase 2.

Phase 2 has now been seeded with grass. A new yew hedge has been planted by volunteers to mark the boundary of phase 2. A new wildlife hedge has also been planted by volunteers on the western side of the cemetery field with some infill planting on the eastern side.

Volunteers also weed around these new hedges. We must extend our gratitude to these volunteers without whom none of this work would have been done.

There are plans for a wild flower meadow to be planted in the field behind phase 2. Plans for the layout of Phase 2 are now being finalised.

The Parish Council's contact gardener cuts the grass every week between April and October and the grass around the headstones is trimmed every fortnight.

One of the In Bloom team has repaired and varnished the circular bench at the Cemetery.

More grave markers have been donated by Myers Funeral Directors, which have now been sited by .....

The Parish Council would like to thank ..... who has worked behind the scenes since the beginning, cutting the grass and hedges, measuring new graves, keeping the area clean and tidy, putting bins out for collection and the general maintenance of the site. .... has now stepped back from these duties and he will definitely be missed.

### **H31 – Eastfield Lane Development – Andrew Dykes**

Cllr Dykes provided an update on the development and answered some resident questions.

### **Queens Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Zoe Rees-Gay**

Cllr Rees-Gay provided details of the village street party due to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

### **Motion**

A registered elector proposed the following motion:

Dunnington Annual Parish Meeting welcomes the City of York Councils public footpaths Kexby 19 and Kexby 20 modifications orders. It hopes that the forthcoming public inquiry will uphold these orders. The public rights of way will be of great benefit to very many residents of the Parish

The motion was seconded by an elector.

For – 18 electors Against – 2 electors