

# Minutes of the Firbeck ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on the 30th April 2025 at Firbeck Village Hall, New Road Firbeck

**Present:** Parish Council Chair, Cllr Caroline Jopling.  
7 Parishioners

## 1. Approval of the 2024 Annual Parish Minutes.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be approved.

## 2. Annual Report by the Chair of the Parish Council

The Chair welcomed parishioners to a more informal style parish meeting and summarized a number of issues the parish council (PC) had faced in the previous year as follows:

- a. Dogs – several dog walkers were felt to be not observing the countryside code by allowing pets to roam freely in fields around the village. In response, a resident approached RMBC and several signs were erected; in addition, the council placed a notice on the noticeboard and an article in the FLAG magazine reminding dog walkers of the countryside code. This had seen some improvement but, following the erection of the signs by RMBC, other residents had expressed concern thinking that they were now obliged to put dogs on a lead but the CROW officer said the signs "requested" not "ordered" that dogs be on a lead. Those present at the meeting did not welcome the proliferation of signs as it was seen as "urbanisation" of our rural environment and it was doubted they had had any effect.
- b. Parking – parking on pavements, especially near the Black Lion, had been problematic however, an appeal for better parking in the FLAG magazine appeared to have had some effect. The Police and RMBC were informed of the issue and are monitoring the situation for further action if required.
- c. Speeding – Two traffic surveys were funded by the PC and established both the volume and speed of traffic passing through the village, with c.50% exceeding the speed limit during the survey period! A mobile speed patrol has been requested. In addition, speeding on Lamb Lane had been raised, through the Ward Councillor, to the relevant authorities as this was felt to be particularly problematic.
- d. Ha Ha – The farmer had promised to restore the Ha Ha but had so far not carried out the work. RMBC had begun to address the issue but had 'gone quiet' in recent weeks. It was felt some protection could be afforded to the Ha Ha if it was 'listed', and those present thought we should proceed and apply to obtain listed status for the Ha Ha.
- e. Racehorse Sculptures – Due to recent changes in the planned area of installation, the proposed size of the sculptures needed to be reviewed before planning permission was applied for.
- f. Events – Once again the PC entered the Yorkshire-in-Bloom competition, gaining a gold award, and organized a very successful Christmas tree festival.

## 3. Firbeck Neighbourhood Plan. Item covered in Groups below.

## 4. Presentations by Organisations and Groups

Verbal presentations were received from the following:

### Village Hall Committee.

Richard Collins thanked all committee members and other volunteers for their efforts and the village for its support. He explained the Village Hall was self-funded through hire fees, grants, fund raising and hosting a variety of events. The alcohol licence had recently been upgraded to allow greater flexibility to serve alcohol. The garden had seen further development and was officially 'opened' in August. A possible grant for solar panels was being investigated.

Neighbourhood Plan.

Ian Berkley provided an overview of progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. A committee of 10 volunteers had held 5 meetings since its formation in Oct 24 under the guidance of advisor Andrew Towleron. They had undertaken reviews of the village infrastructure, architecture, natural environment etc. and recorded the findings for future preservation. The initial findings/draft plan would be presented to village on display I the Village Hall in the first week of June.

Poppy Appeal

Chris Stanton advised that collections in 2024 totalled a record £2797, of which £1863 came from house -to-house collection, £460 from static collection points and £474 in donations for wreaths etc. Thanks to all those who volunteered and gave generously, Additional collectors were sought for the 2025 collection and anyone interested should contact Chris via [cdstanton@hotmail.com](mailto:cdstanton@hotmail.com) Thanks were expressed to all volunteers, organisations who supported the Appeal and places that held static collections.

Probus

The Worksop Probus year runs from September to May and the next year will be the branch’s 50<sup>th</sup> year. Meetings take place fortnightly at St John’s Parish Centre, Carlton. Meetings regularly include guest speakers on a variety of subjects, the club organises trips/visits and also social functions. Anyone interested should visit the website: [www.probusclubofworksop.co.uk](http://www.probusclubofworksop.co.uk) or email [cdstanton@hotmail.com](mailto:cdstanton@hotmail.com)

YCA

Anita Stanton informed those present that the YCA had c.30 members and meets monthly. New members were always welcome and activities over the year included a range of speakers, workshops and crafts.

The Chair concluded by thanking everyone for the contribution they and their groups made to the village.

**6. Any Other Business. Nil**

The meeting was closed at 8:10pm

Signed .....

Dated.....