

## Minutes of the Firbeck ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on the 29th April 2026 at Firbeck Village Hall, New Road Firbeck

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

**1. Approval of the 2025 Annual Parish Minutes.**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 be approved.

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

The Chair welcomed parishioners summarized a number of issues the parish council (PC) had faced in the previous year in the attached report.

**3. Firbeck Neighbourhood Plan.** (Witten report). Following many meetings, local exploration and consultation with residents, the Firbeck Neighbourhood Plan steering group, with guidance and from Andrew Towleron, had hoped to present the plan for Consultation on Saturday 9th May 2026 however this has been delayed as a result of comment from RMBC on the list of heritage assets and local green spaces which is all expected to be clarified shortly. A new date for the (Regulation 14) consultation meeting will then be made.

**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 a full licence to allow greater flexibility to serve alcohol. Major repairs to the roof had been completed during the year, along with other work to continue to maintain the facilities.

Poppy Appeal

Chris Stanton advised that collections in 2025 totalled a record £2943, of which £1790 came from house -to-house collections, £594 from static collection points, £510 from donations for wreaths etc., and £49 via the QR code. Thanks to all those who volunteered and gave generously, Additional collectors were sought for the 2026 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.

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.

PCC

Nicky Blyth informed those present that the village welcomed a new vicar during the year, who also covered three other churches. The VE and VJ Day services were well attended, as were the summer concerts that raised c.£750. Four student grants were awarded this year to support village residents.

Bowling

The bowling club was now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, with 25-30 regular members, most of which were from the village. The club meets every Monday and the fee is £3. New members very welcome.

Table Tennis

The table tennis club also has 25-30 regular members and meets every Wednesday, again for a fee of £3. New members always welcome.

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

**6. Any Other Business.**

1. A comment was made regarding the spraying to remove brambles from the Ha Ha, with the concern of possible effects on the eco-system. The parishioner was assured this would not be a regular event and was required as a one-off to effectively remove the brambles.
2. Another comment was made regarding RMBC's recent approach to informing neighbours about planning applications that could affect their properties. RMBC had not stuck to their own procedures for a recent application therefore all were advised to keep checking future planning applications.

The meeting was closed at 7:50pm

Signed .....

Dated.....

## Annual report from Firbeck Parish Council for the Annual Parish Meeting on 29th April 2026

The past year has been a very positive one for the parish council as many projects have come to fruition or are well very advanced.

The council remains up to full strength, has held meetings every two months and councillors are active throughout the community.

Highlights of the year are :-

- Receiving a gold medal and judged overall category winner for the second consecutive year in the RHS Yorkshire in Bloom competition The community effort put into the care of our village continues to impress judges and elicits comments such as "From start to finish, it was clear to see that Firbeck Village is proudly cared for and respected by all who reside there. Local residents all clearly contribute to the upkeep of the village, and all get involved in some way to raise money, host activities and events, or to make sure their gardens cater for wildlife with the addition of bird and bat boxes, water butts and ponds, and appropriate pollinator-attracting plants". Also mentioned was what judges referred to as our "sincere care" for the village which they saw reflected in the steps to highlight the important historical links of the village such as the renovation of the wooden village sign, plans for a racehorse sculpture garden and the push towards getting the Ha Ha restored.
- The re surfacing of the pathway along New Road through the village
- The widening of the junction of Kidd Lane with New Road

Projects well underway include:-

- The racehorse sculpture which we expect to have installed in time for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the St Leger race.
- The restoration of the grass banking of the Ha Ha - where some trees are be removed by the local farmer either because they are dead or are threatening the structure of the retaining wall. We hope to establish a schedule of grass cutting with RMBC throughout the summer to keep on top of the brambles and weeds to encourage the grass. We will be exploring how to get the wall restored in places where it has been damaged and hopefully planting up the banking with spring flowering bulbs and naturalising plants such as primroses ready for next year.
- Gardening Group - suggested by a local resident and encouraged by the RHS, we are having the inaugural meeting in the village hall this coming Saturday 2nd May

Beneficial relationships with the wider local government community

- We benefit enormously from the help and support we receive from our ward councillor Amanda Clarke and from Sam Kendall the Neighbourhood Coordinator (Dinnington and Thurcroft & Wickersley South Wards Neighbourhoods Policy, Strategy and Engagement at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. I attend the quarterly meetings of Community Action Partnership/Where We Live group which is chaired by Amanda and the meetings coordinated by Sam. This forum presents the opportunity to talk to councillors from other town and parish councils, service providers and officials at RMBC. For instance, through this forum, we had the opportunity of raising our concerns for road safety and speeding on Lamb Lane with the head of transportation at RMBC. Meetings are always attended by our community support police officers and we are able to exchange information on issues affecting us in the village and what steps are being taken to address borough wide problems such as rural crime and car theft.