

**Minutes of Findon Annual Parish Meeting held Thursday 25 May 2017
at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Findon Parish Cllrs Carr (chair), Kirk, Henty, Smith and Roberts.

In Attendance: Clerk Miss F MacLeod.

Members of the public and representatives/reports from the following Village and other Organisations: Findon Village Hall Trust, Lambstails, Findon Downs WI, Findon Village Garden Association, STJB Church, Findon Swimming Pool Club, Findon News, Findon Chess Club, 200 Club, Findon Probus Club.

Item No		Action By
1.	Apologies for absence	
	Apologies were received from Cllrs Havenhand, Barnett, Mackerell, Goldsworthy and Wyatt, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Cllr Urquart, and Arun District Council (ADC) Cllr Wensley.	
2.	Guest Speaker – Graeme Lewington, Wey & Arun Canal Trust	
	Mr Lewington told the meeting that the Canal Trust had 23 miles of canal waterways from Loxwood, not far from Findon. A brief history and restoration of the Canal was provided and the amount of work carried out by 3000 registered volunteers on the Canal itself and the adjoining footpaths and landscaping. The Chairman thanked Mr Lewington for his talk and hoped that this would inspire more Findon parishioners to volunteer for activities around the village.	
3	To approve the Minutes of the meeting 25 May 2016	
	It was proposed and accepted that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 May 2016 be approved.	
4	Matters arising from the Minutes	
	There were no matters arising.	
5	Reports on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year.	
	Full details of the updates and activities can be found in the Chairman's Report attached to the end of the minutes.	
6	Village of the Year competition update	
	Background to the completion was given by Cllr Kirk and that, despite very challenging timescales, Mr & Mrs Wyatt had submitted an application and Findon was now on the 'shortlist' of entrants. Channel 4 had been filming in Findon with the presenter Penelope Keith and if Findon reached the top ten, further filming would take place. The TV show would be broadcast in October 2017. There had been no cost to the village to enter the competition and there was a £10k first prize towards community initiatives.	
	The meeting was adjourned at 8pm for a refreshment break until 8.20pm	
7	Reports from Local Organisations	
	The Chairman invited representatives from local organisations and community groups to give a brief presentation on their activities over the past 12 months.	

Signed:

Dated:

8	Other matters for discussion	
	Cllr Carr thanked Etta Wyatt for organising the refreshments and reminded that parishioners that volunteers could put the names forward after the meeting.	
	There being no other matters for discussion, Cllr Carr thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.	

Findon Parish Council Annual Report for 2016/17

A busy start to the year in April with the launch of the Village Community Website (by Richard Bell) and the newly formed TEP (Traffic, Environment & People) Group starting to make some real progress.

Cllr. Del Henty supervised the recruitment and efforts of the Community Work parties who gradually cleared the 'jungle' behind the Pre-School on the Glebe Land early in the year, and shortly thereafter FPC paid for extensive repairs to the rear and side walls of the pre-school.

In May we saw the erection of a new noticeboard for Nephote Green, donated by the family of Johannes and Maureen Tinner, both of whom had died in the previous few months. This noticeboard is available for any village organisation wishing to advertise its future functions. In June we agreed the legal ownership transfer of Pond Green from Arun DC to Findon Parish Council. The title to Pond Green has still not been concluded due to several legal hurdles that have not yet been passed. In spite of that the Findon Volunteers run by Cllrs Carr and Henty have carried out the work to trim the hedges and ground to make the green more usable for villagers.

The Sheep Fair on September 10th was blighted by rain, which cut the normal attendance down to about 60% of the 'norm'. Nevertheless an excess of £2000 was made, and grants were distributed to the Pre-School and the Governors Fund for St.John's Primary School. The Sheep Fair Committee are always prepared to consider grant applications from village organisations following each year's Fair (profits permitting!), with preference being given to the youth of the village.

The TEP group organised a speed and parking survey on all the key routes into and out of the village, this has now resulted in an agreement by WSCC Highways to reduce the speed in the centre of the village to 20mph, beginning next January 2018. Later in September the village post office and shop was put on the market by Dave & Gayle Stewart, but as yet there seems to have been little interest from potential buyers.

In October the Village Pre-School started a concerted effort to raise enough money for a new building, FPC having obtained a grant for £16,500 from a special fund being wound up by Arun DC. Later in October the TEP group got confirmation that the village would get a grant of £60,000 from WSCC Highways towards the remodelling of the centre of the village, the introduction of a 20mph limit, and increasing the pavement width up School Hill for the safety and benefit of children and mums going to the school.

November saw the long-awaited Neighbourhood Plan Referendum take place, strangely in the Black Horse. 94.5% of those voting approved the adoption of the plan, which was then 'made' following a meeting of the Planning Committee of the SDNPA on December 8th. More recently there has been a concerted effort by some villagers to have the Neighbourhood Plan amended in the light of opposition to the proposed site allocations by SDNPA.

Later in November we all saw the Christmas Lights go up, and the village was once again grateful for the efforts of Corinne Ball and Cllr. Jan Mackerell, together with many helpers. Each year more lights are bought, either with grants from the Parish Council or indeed the Sheep Fair Committee.

A second grant application for £24000 was made by the council to the Operation Watershed fund from WSCC in December, and this was approved in its entirety, and will be carried out by Edburtons in June/July 2017. The work will involve drainage improvements to the edge of Nepcote Green and the bottom of Stable Lane to prevent water from running into the village square.

Sadly we lost 3 councillors in the last year, Dave Young resigned in July, Melissa Oligario in September and after a rather short stay Simon Moore left us in March. Fortunately John Barnett joined us in December and Sean Smith has also been appointed since the new council year started, bringing us back to full complement again. This is also an appropriate moment to acknowledge the continued efforts and excellence of our Parish Clerk Fiona Macleod, who continues to serve the village so well, as well as all those councillors who give so much of their time and expertise to keep the village alive and well.