

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
SANTON DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016**

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Present: Mr Mick Mackender, Chairman  
Dr Derek Toomer  
Mrs Sylvia East, Parish Clerk  
Mr Gareth Rees  
Mr Malcolm Finch

As no one had actually turned up for the Annual Parish Meeting set for 6.30 pm., the Parish Council meeting commenced 15 minutes early. However, two members of the public arrived at 7.30pm. Mrs Sayer, who had previously rung to say she would not be able to attend, and Mr Colin Young.

**Election of Chair**

There being no interest put forward, the incumbent Chairman advised that he was prepared to continue. Mr Malcolm Finch Proposed and Mr Gareth Rees seconded. All were in favour.

**Election of Vice Chair**

There being no interest put forward, the incumbent Vice Chairman, having advised that he was prepared to continue was proposed by Mr Gareth Rees and seconded by Mr Malcolm Finch. All were in favour.

**Apologies**

The Chairman advised that apologies had been received from Mr George Radford, Mrs Kim Butcher and from Cllrs Ridgewell and Silvester

**Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on any of the Agenda Items.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

There being no comments or amendments put forward, these were then signed by the Chairman as being a true record of events.

**Parish Clerk's Report**

1. The Parish Clerk gave all Councillors a full copy of the accounts and advised that the internal audit was underway. Following this the papers would be sent off to BDO for the external Audit.
2. The Parish Clerk mentioned the issue of the new fence having been erected at Merlin Lodge, Mark Lane, and that an excellent job had been carried out, but which has now been exposed a large swathe of unsightly road (previously covered by an enormous and overgrown hedge). It was also advised that a Council drain was now somewhat exposed and dangerous. The consensus of Councillor opinion was that the new owner should deal with this matter, however, this issue would require further investigation.

**Parish Councillor's Reports**

1. Mr Malcolm Finch raised the problem of the road parking down the road leading to the shop, and stated that he failed to see why the lane on the other side of the road was not able to be used by the residents in this area for parking, rather than parking on the main road. There is a private lane sign but Mr Malcolm Finch questioned why, given the dangers of parking on the main road, parking by the residents adjacent to the lane could not park there. The issue really went no further and would be raised again.
2. Mr Malcolm Finch mentioned that he had been approached by Mr Colin Young who wishes to come onto the Parish Council and it was roughly about this time that said villager walked in. The set procedure would be followed.

**Chairman's Report**

- 1) The Chairman advised that the last of the tree work had been carried out and there appeared to be no major issues on the roads.
- 2) An update on the Leases was given by the Chairman who advised that the Parish Council were facing a huge second interim invoice, due to the fact that the Parish Council Solicitor was having to do all the chasing, since it appeared the Club Solicitor did not have all the required information. Mrs Sayer, acting as interim Secretary, advised the Club Solicitor had all the details, and should be on the case. She promised to chase the Solicitor and to copy in the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council agreed that if the issue continued to be delayed for what appears to be very little reason, then the previous agreement to meet all of this cost would have to be reconsidered. At the moment the Parish Clerk has asked the Solicitor to hold back on chasing, but this is far too important an issue to overlook for too much longer.
- 3) The dates of the meetings for this year were agreed as 11<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> November.
- 4) The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm